

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: BARKER/KARPIS GANG**

**BREMER KIDNAPPING**

**FILE NUMBER: 7-576**

**SECTION : SUB A - Section 8**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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SUBJECT Barker/Karpis Gang (Bremer Kidnapping)

FILE NUMBER 7-576

SECTION NUMBER Sub A Section 8

SERIALS 1/9/35 - 1/16/35

TOTAL PAGES 92

PAGES RELEASED 92

PAGES WITHHELD 0

EXEMPTION(S) USED NONE

# BREMER KIDNAP SUSPECT DIES IN FIGHT

Tries to "Shoot It Out" With  
Federal Men in Raid  
on Chicago Hideout

CHICAGO, Jan. 9 (I.N.S.).  
Russell Gibson, 33, ex-convict sus-  
pect in the \$200,000 Edward G.  
Bremer kidnaping, died today of  
a bullet wound suffered when he  
tried to shoot it out with Federal  
Department of Justice agents who  
stormed his North Side apart-  
ment hideout.

Tear gas bombs hurled into the  
apartment by the Government  
raiders forced the surrender of a  
man whose name was given as  
Byron Bolton, of St. Louis, and  
two women, one of whom was said  
to be Gibson's wife.

Bolton, who gave the name of  
"Willie Harrison," was later cor-  
rectly identified through ques-  
tioning.

Gibson died at American Hos-  
pital three hours after the shoot-  
ing. Although hit with four bul-  
lets, only one, a steel-jacketed  
missile fired from a rifle, pene-  
trated the ex-convict's bullet-proof  
vest.

In Gibson's pockets authorities  
found \$5,000 in large bills. The  
serial numbers were being traced  
to determine whether the money  
was part of the Bremer ransom.

## Dying Thug Silent

Government operatives who at-  
tempted to question the dying  
gangster said he had stubbornly  
refused to talk of his recent ac-  
tivities and the whereabouts of  
Alvin Karpis, public enemy named  
by the Government as one of the  
kidnapers of Bremer, wealthy St.  
Paul banker.

Harold Nathan, assistant to J.  
Edgar Hoover, head of the Divi-  
sion of Investigation of the De-  
partment of Justice, announced  
that Gibson was a member of the  
Alvin Karpis-Arthur (Doc) Barker  
gang. Barker and Karpis have  
been jointly named as the Bremer  
kidnapers.

Mr. Nathan and Melvin Purvis,  
chief of the local Bureau of In-  
vestigation, refused to discuss the  
capture of the two women and  
Bolton. They admitted the three  
were being questioned extensively  
but would not announce the pris-  
oners' identities.

## Five Open Fire

Gibson was shot down as he  
raced out the rear door of the  
Pine Grove Avenue apartment.  
Five Government agents met him  
and opened fire as his pistol  
jammed after firing only one shot.  
Gibson fell with a bullet in the  
lung.

Sixteen agents, led by E. J. Con-  
nelly, had surrounded the apart-  
ment building. They were armed  
with tear gas bombs, machine  
guns and rifles. Occupants of the  
first floor apartment of Gibson  
were called upon to surrender and  
a few seconds later Gibson  
emerged from the rear door with  
gun in hand.

The officers in the front began  
flooding the flat with tear gas,  
forcing Bolton to come out on  
a small balcony with his arms up-  
raised in surrender. The two  
women were carried out half con-  
scious from the fumes. All three  
were hurried to Department of  
Justice headquarters for ques-  
tioning.

## Two Battles Near

Failure of the Department of  
Justice men to notify the Town  
Hall police that a raid was to be  
staged nearly resulted in two  
pitched battles at the apartment  
building, one in the front and one  
in the rear.

Officers, responding to a half  
dozen calls of terrified residents  
who reported the shooting, de-  
scended on the building and were  
about to open fire in the belief  
the men were gangsters. The  
Government agents identified  
themselves as "F. B. I. men" at the  
last minute.

WASH. TIMES

7-576-A

## D. J. AGENTS SLAY BREMER SUSPECT

Mortally Wounded Trying to  
"Shoot It Out" With  
Federal Men.

By the Associated Press.

CHICAGO, January 9.—Federal agents have struck again in their war on crime—this time to kill Russell Gibson, 32-year-old suspect in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker.

Trapped in a North Side apartment last night, Gibson, an ex-convict, and reputed member of the abduction gang of Alvin Karpis and Arthur Barker, attempted to shoot it out with a picked squad of 16 agents, but his miniature machine gun jammed, and he fell mortally wounded.

### Vest Proves Useless.

Two bullets from the quick firing rifles of the Federal men hit their mark and one of them found a fatal spot despite the fact that Gibson, who was also known as "Slim" Gray, was wearing a "bullet-proof" vest. The bullet penetrated the vest. Gibson died in a hospital early today.

Gibson attempted to flee out of the back door of the apartment not far from the spot where John Dillinger was shot and killed last July 22, only to meet the withering fire of the agents. Gibson fired as he ran, but was able to shoot but one bullet before his weapon failed him.

### Two Others Surrender.

Meanwhile the agents had flooded the apartment with tear gas, forcing the surrender of a man and a woman, who identified herself as Mrs. Clara Gibson, widow of the slain gangster. The identity of the man was not disclosed. He was at first identified by the agents as Willie Harrison, a former St. Louis golf professional and member of the Karpis-Barker gang, but later Harold Nathan, assistant to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced that the man was not Harrison.

The raid was the culmination of a week's surveillance over the apartment where Gibson had been living for three months. How the agents discovered his whereabouts was not disclosed, but their plans for their latest thrust at the underworld element were carefully laid.

Under the direction of E. J. Connelley and others attached to the local office of the division of investigation, the agents surrounded the place before attempting to get their man. When they knocked on the door there was no answer, but almost at the same time Gibson dashed out of the rear door.

### Admits Identity.

Before he died he was questioned by Agent Thomas Myers, but admitted nothing except the identity of himself and his wife, and to name his male companion as a man named "Willie." He refused to answer other questions.

In addition to the Bremer kidnaping Gibson was wanted for the robbery of \$75,000 from a bank messenger in Oklahoma City carrying funds from the American First National Bank May 24, 1929. He escaped from the Oklahoma County Jail in August, 1929, where he was held for questioning in the crime.

Department of Justice records disclosed that warrants were outstanding changing Gibson and his wife with transporting a stolen car from St. Joseph, Mo., to Oklahoma City in May, 1929.

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Washington Star  
Jan. 9, 1935  
67-576-A

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Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Miss Gandy.....

WASH. STAR

JAN 9 1935

7-576-A

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| Mr. Nathan.....            |
| Mr. Tolson.....            |
| Mr. Clegg.....             |
| Mr. Glavin.....            |
| Mr. Ladd.....              |
| Mr. Nichols.....           |
| Mr. Rosen.....             |
| Mr. Tracy.....             |
| Mr. Carson.....            |
| Mr. Coffey.....            |
| Mr. Edwards.....           |
| Mr. Egan.....              |
| Mr. Hendon.....            |
| Mr. Jones.....             |
| Mr. Lester <i>EB</i> ..... |
| Mr. Quinn.....             |
| Mr. Schilder.....          |
| Mr. Tamm.....              |
| Mr. Tracy.....             |
| Miss Gandy.....            |

## Karpis Suspect Shot by Agents

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Gibson was shot as he opened fire on a squad of about 15 agents sent to a north side apartment to set a trap for him. Gibson's gun jammed.

Willie Harrison, St. Louis, designated by the agents as a minor member of the gang, was captured. One of the women said she was Gibson's wife.

Among crimes blamed on the gang was the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

*Washington Post*  
*Jan 9, 1935*

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*7-576-A-*

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|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan   | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson   | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg    | ..... |
| Mr. Baughman | ..... |
| Chief Clerk  | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey   | ..... |
| Mr. Edwards  | ..... |
| Mr. Egan     | ..... |
| Mr. Harbo    | ..... |
| Mr. Keith    | ..... |
| Mr. Lester   | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn    | ..... |
| Mr. Schilder | ..... |
| Mr. Tamm     | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy    | ..... |
| Miss Gandy   | ..... |

W H D S

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WASH. POST

JAN 9 1935

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## AIDE OF KARPIS SHOT BY 'D. J.'

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19

Sixteen agents of the Department of Justice shot down the outlaw without casualties to their own force in the face of retaliatory machine gun fire.

Harold Nathan, assistant director of the Justice Department's Bureau of Investigation, refused to reveal information which led his forces to the scene of the battle. Neither would he name the men who participated in the fight.

Gibson, also known as "Slim" Gray, is wanted in Oklahoma City by both Federal and State authorities for violation of the Dyer automobile theft act and a \$75,000 holdup of a messenger of the American First National Bank on May 24, 1933.

Nathan said Gibson is connected with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, millionaire St. Paul brewer, principally through his prominent part in the Barker-Karpis gang.

Washington  
Herald

1-9-35

7-576-A

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| Mr. Schilder | ..... |
| Mr. Tamm     | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy    | ..... |
| Miss Gandy   | ..... |

W H P S

7-576-R

WASH. HERALD

JAN 9 1935

17

Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Baughman.....  
 Chief Clerk.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Edwards.....  
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 Miss Gandy.....

## U. S. AGENTS KILL KIDNAPING SUSPECT

(Special to The News)

CHICAGO, Jan. 9 (Wednesday).—Russel Gibson, 32-year-old jail fugitive, bank robber and suspect in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul brewer, was fatally wounded last night when fifteen Government agents stormed his North Side hideout with rifles, machine guns and tear gas bombs. In the battle, Chicago police and the agents almost engaged in a gun fight over mistaken identity.

Two women, one of them said to be Clara Gibson, the bandit's wife, and Willie Harrison, a St. Louis gangster, were captured.

Gibson, long sought as a ranking gunman of the Karpis-Barker kidnap gang, was felled by three bullets in the abdomen when he attempted to shoot his way out of the apartment at 11 P. M. A. M. today.



The Late  
Russel Gibson

He died at 2:41

Armed with a heavy automatic

rifle, Gibson darted out the rear door of his first floor apartment when Federal Agents headed by E. J. Connelley rapped on the front door and commanded him to open. Finding his escape blocked by additional guards, Gibson opened fire, but his gun jammed after the first shot. Then the agents' bullets found their mark.

In the front of the building the agents had heard the firing and decided that the gang had begun to "shoot it out." Mistaking a window of the apartment of J. H. Twitchell for one of the other apartment, they shot out the glass and hurled three tear gas bombs inside.

Twitchell staggered to a small

(Continued on page 15)

## U. S. AGENTS KILL KIDNAP SUSPECT IN GUN BATTLE

(Continued from page 2)

balcony, choking with tear gas, and crying out that he surrendered. Harrison, meanwhile, had come down the inside stairs, his hands elevated, and made no resistance.

In the meantime hearing the shots, neighbors telephoned the police. As many squads responded, unaware of the Government activity, Lieut. William Blaul led one group to the front of the building. He shouted:

"We are police officers!" The Government men, he said, did not identify themselves, but just when a pitched battle seemed eminent, Lieut. Blaul kept his squad from firing and established the identity of the other group.

In the rear, a similar scene was taking place. Three police sergeants, hearing the shots fired at Gibson, came into the alley. Seeing the Government men, they mistook them for gangsters, and deployed for a fight.

Just in time, one of the agents cried:

"We're J. men!"

Inside the apartment the agents found four automatic rifles, ten pistols, several sawed-off shotguns, and 500 rounds of ammunition.

7-576-K

## BREMER SUSPECT IS SHOT BY AGENTS

Russell Gibson Is Expected to  
Die After Battle at Apart-  
ment in Chicago.

### THREE SEIZED WITH HIM

Two Are Women, One Said to Be  
Wife of Man Implicated in  
Kidnapping of Brewer.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Russell Gibson, ex-convict, bank robber and suspect in the kidnapping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul brewer, was shot and critically wounded to-night after a pitched battle with government agents.

One man companion and two women were captured.

Gibson and the others were trapped in an apartment at 3,922 Pine Grove Avenue, which had been under government surveillance for the past week.

Gibson was taken to the American Hospital, shot three times, and doctors say he probably will die.

The other man captured is Willie Harrison, said to be a golf professional from St. Louis.

One of the women was said to be Mrs. Clara Gibson, wife of the wounded man, but the name of the other woman was not given.

JAN 9 - 1935

THE NEW YORK SUN, WEI

## SUSPECT KILLED BY U. S. AGENTS IN BREMER CASE

**Russell Gibson Also Was  
Wanted on Bank Robbery  
and Stolen Car Charges.**

### WIDOW HELD FOR QUESTIONING

**Another Man Seized in Chicago  
Raid May Be Member of  
Karpis-Barker Gang.**

CHICAGO, Jan. 9 (A. P.).—Federal agents have struck again in their war on crime—this time to kill Russell Gibson, thirty-two-year-old suspect in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

Trapped in a North Side apartment last night, Gibson, an ex-convict and reputed member of the gang of Alvin Karpis and Arthur Barker, attempted to shoot it out with a picked squad of sixteen agents, but his miniature machine gun jammed. He fell mortally wounded.

Two bullets from the quick-firing rifles of the Federal men hit their mark and one of them found a fatal spot, despite the fact that Gibson, who was also known as Slim Gray, was wearing a "bullet-proof" vest. The bullet penetrated the vest. Gibson died in a hospital early today.

#### Attempted to Flee.

Gibson attempted to flee out of the back door of the apartment at 3920 Pine Grove avenue, not far from the spot where John Dillinger was shot and killed last July 22, only to meet the withering fire of the agents. Gibson fled as he ran,

but was able to shoot but one bullet before his weapon failed him.

Meanwhile, the agents had flooded the apartment with tear gas, forcing the surrender of a man and a woman. The woman said she was Mrs. Clara Gibson, widow of the slain gangster. The identity of the man was not disclosed. He was at first identified by the agents as Willie Harrison, a former St. Louis golf professional and member of the Karpis-Barker gang, but later Harold Nathan, assistant to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced that the man was not Harrison.

At the same time Nathan denied reports that the man was Arthur or Ray Barker or Alvin Karpis. He admitted, however, that the agents have been seeking Harrison as a member of the Karpis-Barker mob. The raid was the culmination of a week's surveillance over the apartment, where Gibson had been living for three months. How the agents discovered his whereabouts was not disclosed, but their plans for their latest thrust at the underworld element were laid carefully.

#### Raid Carefully Planned.

Under the direction of E. J. Connelley and others attached to the local office of the division, the agents surrounded the place before attempting to get their man. When they knocked on the door, there was no answer, but almost at the same time Gibson dashed out of the rear door.

Before he died he was questioned by Agent Thomas Myers, but admitted nothing except the identity of himself and wife and to name his male companion, Willie. He refused to answer other questions.

When the Federal men entered the front lobby of the apartment building they met Mrs. Gibson, who was just leaving with her chow dog. She returned to her apartment, however, after being told to warn the others that the "agents were coming." A few minutes later the door bell was rung and the first tear gas bomb was tossed. One of these went through the window of the home of Jay H. Twitchell, who lives in an adjoining apartment.

Twitchell climbed out of a window, with upraised hands, shouting that he surrendered. He was

questioned, but later released when he proved his identity.

#### Woman Staggered From Flat.

Mrs. Gibson, still leading the dog, staggered out of the apartment, gasping and crying, about the same time that Gibson's male companion also ran out with tears rolling down his cheeks. Both were taken to the Department of Justice offices for questioning.

Nathan said that several weapons were found in the apartment, and it was reported that 100 rounds of ammunition were discovered in a suit case uncovered in the hideout.

In addition to the Bremer kidnaping, Gibson was wanted for the robbery of \$75,000 from a bank messenger in Oklahoma City carrying funds from the American First National Bank, May 24, 1929. He escaped from the Oklahoma county jail in August, 1929, where he was held for questioning in the crime.

He served a two-year term in the Missouri State penitentiary for flourishing a deadly weapon in 1927. Gibson's first criminal record was made in Kansas City in 1919, when he was arrested as a hold-up suspect, but later was released.

#### Charged in Stolen Car Case.

Department of Justice records disclosed that warrants were outstanding charging Gibson and his wife with transporting a stolen car from St. Joseph, Mo., to Oklahoma City in May, 1929. His mother, Mrs. Nancy Gibson, and brother, McKinley, are residents of Kansas City, official records stated.

At St. Paul and Minneapolis police officials said they had no record that Gibson was sought for the abduction of Bremer, who was held prisoner by a gang for twenty-three days until \$200,000 ransom was paid. Bremer, the son of a St. Paul brewer, was abducted last January 17. From five to eight men were believed to have been in the gang of kidnapers.

A second woman, in addition to Mrs. Gibson, was reported to have been seized in the raid, but Nathan declined either to affirm or deny whether she was held in the case. Reports of persons in the vicinity of the gun battle, however, were that another woman was taken into custody.

7-576-17

# FEDERAL AGENTS SLAY GUNMAN AS BREMER KIDNAPER

Ex-Convict Killed When Oper-  
tors Close In on Chicago  
Apartment

MACHINE GUN JAMS  
AS HE SHOOTS IT OUT

CHICAGO, Jan. 9 (AP).—Federal agents have struck with deadly accuracy again in their war on crime—this time to kill Russell Gibson, thirty-two-year-old suspect in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker.

Trapped in a North Side apartment last night, Gibson, an ex-convict and reputed member of the abduction gang of Alvin Karpis and Arthur Barker, attempted to shoot it out with a picked squad of sixteen agents, but his miniature machine gun jammed, and he fell mortally wounded.

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Jan. 9 (AP).—Dean George Kendall of Wabash College said today that Allen Bromberger, reported victim of a \$50,000 kidnap plot, was one of the college's best students and was spending his fifth year there doing post-graduate work.

He termed the case "an engrossing mystery" and stated that Bromberger was one of the school's best cross-country runners.

W.H.D.V.

7-576-R

# KIDNAPED STUDENT FREED IN CHICAGO

**\$50,000 Ransom Payment Is  
Denied by Family—U. S.  
Hunts 3 Abductors**

CHICAGO, Jan. 9 (AP).—Allen C. Bomberger, twenty-one-year-old college student from Hammond, Ind., was released early today by a trio of kidnapers who forced him, he told police, to write a ransom note to his father demanding \$50,000.

The youth reported to police shortly after he was tossed from an auto near the Federal Building, and said he had been released after more than forty-eight hours in captivity. He said he thought his father, Attorney Lowden Bomberger, met the ransom demand.

Members of his family, however, and Harold Nathan of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, denied that any payment had been made.

The denial from the Bomberger home came from a brother of the victim, who refused to give his first name and who declined to disturb the elder Bomberger.

"We didn't pay a cent," the brother declared, adding that any further inquiries would have to be made to the Department of Justice, whose agents were called into the case after young Bomberger had been seized last Sunday night in Crawfordsville, Ind., where he attends Wabash College.

The report of the kidnaping came shortly after Federal agents had shot and killed Russell Gibson, a suspect in the \$200,000 abduction of Edward B. Bremer, well-to-do St. Paul banker, in a gun fight on Chicago's Northside.

Young Bomberger said there were two men and a woman in the gang and that he would be able to identify one of the men, who was called "Ed" by the others. They seized him, he said, while he was walking on Crawfordsville Street after they had pulled their car alongside and asked him if he wanted a ride. After being bound and gagged,

he said, he was driven to a bungalow which he believed was in Indianapolis, where, he said, he was compelled to write a note to his father demanding the ransom. He later prepared another message saying the kidnapers "meant business."

The Chicago detectives who questioned the boy, however, said they believed that the house to which he was taken was in Chicago, instead of Indianapolis.

Young Bomberger said his captors held him prisoner at the bungalow for only about twenty minutes and then drove him to another house, which later proved to be situated somewhere in Chicago, and where he was held captive from last Monday morning until the time of his release. He did not know where he was tossed from the automobile, but went to a hotel and notified his father of his release by telephone.

After making a statement to the police young Bomberger was turned over to Department of Justice agents for further questioning.

He told the police that the second note he wrote was dictated to him by the man known as "Ed" and that it was written about 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning.

7-576-17

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NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL

## Bremer Kidnaping Suspect Slain in Battle with Federal Agents

CHICAGO, Jan. 9 (By International News Service).—Russell Gibson, 33, ex-convict suspect in the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer kidnaping, died today of a bullet wound suffered when he tried to shoot it out with Department of Justice agents who stormed his north side apartment hideout.

Tear gas bombs hurled into the apartment by government raiders forced the surrender of a man whose name was given as Willie Harrison, of St. Louis, and two women, one of whom was said to be Gibson's wife.

Gibson died early today at American Hospital three hours after the shooting. Although hit with four bullets, only one, a steel-jacketed missile fired from a high

powered rifle, penetrated the ex-convict's bulletproof vest.

In Gibson's pockets authorities found \$5,000 in large bills. The serial numbers were being traced to determine whether the money was part of the Bremer ransom.

Government operatives who attempted to question the dying gangster said he had stubbornly refused to talk of his recent activities and the whereabouts of Alvin Karpis, public enemy named by the Government as one of the kidnapers of Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker.

Harold Nathan, assistant to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the division of investigation in the Department of Justice, announced that Gibson was a member of the Alvin Karpis-Arthur (Doc) Barker gang. Barker and Karpis have been jointly named as the Bremer kidnapers.

W H D S

7-576-A

# U. S. AGENTS TRAP 4

Bullets and Tear Gas Used in a  
Raid on a Chicago  
Apartment.

## ONE GANGSTER KILLED

Russell Gibson, Suspected in  
Bremer Kidnaping, Tries to  
Fight Way Out.

## A BARKER-KARPIS MEMBER

Other Captives Include Two Women  
and a Minor St. Louis  
Hoodlum.

### Bulletin

Police here said the man killed  
in Chicago was Russell (Rusty)  
Gibson, a Kansas City gangster  
prior to 1929. He was ar-  
rested many times by the police  
and served one prison term on a  
conviction in the courts here.

(By The Star's Leased Wire Service.)

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Russell Gibson,  
ex-convict, bank robber and suspected  
in the kidnaping of Edward G. Brem-  
er, millionaire St. Paul brewer, was  
shot and was fatally wounded and  
two women and one man com-  
panion were captured tonight after a  
battle with government agents.

Gibson and the others were trapped  
in an apartment which had been  
under government surveillance for  
the last week.

Gibson was taken to the American  
hospital shot three times and he died  
a few hours later. The other man  
captured is Willie Harrison, said to be  
a golf professional and a minor hood-  
lum from St. Louis.

One of the women was said to be  
Mrs. Clara Gibson, wife of the  
wounded man, but the name of the  
other woman captive was not re-  
vealed.

### A Barker-Karpis Gangster.

Gibson, who is also known as  
"Slim" Gray, was said by Harold  
Nathan, assistant to Edgard J. Hoo-  
ver, head of the division of investiga-  
tion of the department, to be a mem-  
ber of the Arthur (Doc) Barker-Al-  
vin Karpis gang.

Apparently he was traced to Chi-  
cago some time ago although Mr.  
Nathan was reticent about revealing  
the nature of the investigation.

Shortly after 11 o'clock tonight a  
band of a dozen agents, heavily  
armed with shotguns, machine guns  
and tear gas bombs, surrounded the  
apartment building.

Gibson was known to be in an  
apartment on the first floor. On the  
door bell was the name "S. A. Reed."

### Agents Knock on Door.

The agents led by E. J. Connelly,  
entered the hallway and knocked on  
the door.

"Come out one at a time," Con-  
nelly shouted, "the place is sur-  
rounded. There was a moment of  
silence inside then a burst of firing  
came from the rear. Gibson on hear-  
ing the voices of the agents had  
armed himself with a heavy auto-  
matic rifle and attempted to shoot  
his way out the back.

There he met some four or five  
agents. He fired one shot, then the  
gun jammed. In the same instant the  
agents returned the shots and Gibson  
fell, shot three times.

In the front, the agents began hur-  
ling tear gas bombs. The fumes spread  
through the entire building and sev-  
eral families in the big 48-flat struc-  
ture were forced to flee to the open  
air.

### A Table Cloth Affair.

One of the bombs even set fire to a  
table cloth in the apartment next to  
the one in which Gibson and his  
friends were hiding.

Harrison came out of a front  
French window onto a small balcony,  
his hands up, and crying out that he  
was surrendering. He was taken into  
custody and removed to the depart-  
ment of justice offices in the Bankers  
building.

In the meantime, the frightened  
residents of the building, not know-  
ing what was going on, had sent  
numerous calls for help to the police  
and several squads responded. They  
were informed that the government  
men had charge, but remained to  
offer what aid they might.

Much of the excitement resulted  
when the agents, after going up the  
stairs and into the first floor hall-  
way, made a mistake and began fir-  
ing into the wrong apartment, resi-  
dents of the building stated.

Bremer, the St. Paul brewer for  
whose kidnaping Gibson was sought,  
was abducted on January 17, 1934,  
and a \$200,000 ransom was finally  
paid for his return.

Gibson also was wanted by the gov-  
ernment for violation of the Dyer act  
and for the \$75,000 robbery of an  
American First National Bank mes-  
senger in Oklahoma City on May 24,  
1933. He was once arrested for that  
crime but escaped from the Okla-  
homa county jail a month later and  
since has been a fugitive from justice.

The two women were gassed but not  
seriously. Officials said here that  
both Mrs. Gibson and her husband  
were wanted by the United States  
marshal in Oklahoma City for viola-  
tion of the Dyer act for the interstate  
transportation of a stolen motor car  
from Henry Stahl, St. Joseph, Mo.  
Gibson served a 2-year term in the  
Missouri penitentiary.

The southwestern desperado gang  
headed by Alvin Karpis and Fred  
Barker definitely has been connected  
with the Bremer crime, Washington  
officials announced several months  
ago.

They also were wanted for the  
killings of Sheriff C. R. Kelly of West  
Plains, Mo., and A. W. Dunlap of  
West St. Paul.

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| Mr. Nathan   | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson   | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg    | ..... |
| Mr. Baughman | ..... |
| Chief Clerk  | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey   | ..... |
| Mr. Edwards  | ..... |
| Mr. Egan     | ..... |
| Mr. Harbo    | ..... |
| Mr. Keith    | ..... |
| Mr. Lester   | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn    | ..... |
| Mr. Schilder | ..... |
| Mr. Tamm     | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy    | ..... |
| Miss Gandy   | ..... |

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Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Baughman.....  
 Chief Clerk.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Edwards.....  
 Mr. Egan.....  
 Mr. Harbo.....  
 Mr. Keith.....  
 Mr. Lester.....  
 Mr. Quinn.....  
 Mr. Schilder.....  
 Mr. Tamm.....  
 Miss Gandy.....

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1935

## OVER CRIME'S 1-WAY PATH

"RUSTY" GIBSON, SLAIN BY U. S. AGENTS, STARTED CAREER HERE.

Arrested Frequently on Robbery Charges, He Always Escaped Prosecution, Being Tripped for Only a 1-Year Term.

The slaying of Russell (Rusty) Gibson in Chicago last night in a battle with government agents recalls to police here a slender slippery gun-toting youth who made Kansas City a happy hunting ground for ten years almost with impunity.

Gibson was said by federal agents to be a member of the Arthur (Doc) Barker-Alvin Karpis gang and to be suspected in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, millionaire St. Paul brewer. He was wounded fatally when he chose to fight it out with the government men when they surrounded him in an apartment.

### A LONG RECORD OF ARRESTS.

Few men in Kansas City were arrested more and convicted less often than Russell Gibson. His youth in Kansas City was a succession of arrests for holdups, robberies, bank robberies and other major crimes. Many times the victims identified Gibson, but he almost always went free because of "lack of evidence."

The young, thin-faced, thick-lipped, sleek-haired boy retained high priced lawyers who pushed him through every loophole the law offered. He was said to have had strong political connections, as one reason for his success in evading convictions. Police records show that he had been arrested twenty-two times in the first five years of his depredations and convicted once. That was for speeding, for which he was fined \$2.

Three pages of police records recite the reasons for Gibson's arrest. In his entire time here, when he was accused of bank and pay roll robberies amounting to thousands of dollars, he was convicted on a major offense only once. That was when a jury in Judge Samuel A. Dew's court found him guilty of flourishing a deadly weapon and sentenced him to serve two years in the penitentiary at Jefferson City. He served one

ance of this youngster they were to know so well December 8, 1919. He was arrested when he was 17 years old and held for investigation. After that the charges were more serious. He was known as an expert driver of motor cars, and frequently was accused of being the driver in an escape from a bank robbery.

Among the crimes for which Gibson was arrested were the Main Street Bank robbery January 21, 1924, when holdup men took \$44,860; the Corn Exchange Bank robbery in September, 1924, and robberies of the Katz Drug Company and the Campbell Baking Company the next year.

By bluff, intimidation and easy spending, Gibson almost always was released from jail when charges failed to be proved. Asked by one judge what occupation he followed, he replied: "I'm too smart to work."

#### TRAPPED BY GARAGE OPERATOR.

Gibson slipped, however, January 11, 1925, when he was having his car repaired at a garage owned by Charles LaBaugh. When LaBaugh presented a bill, Gibson flourished a revolver and refused to pay. The garage man swung a fist at Gibson, but in the fight a partner came to Gibson's assistance and the young bandit knocked LaBaugh unconscious.

The garage man refused to prosecute, when Gibson was brought to trial in criminal court, until Chet A. Keyes, then assistant county prosecutor, threatened to file charges against LaBaugh. Gibson was convicted, much to his surprise, and was given a 2-year sentence. He served from December 17, 1927, to December 19, 1928.

Gibson's last record in Kansas City was his arrest May 29, 1929, here in connection with the robbery of Charles H. Vowel, an Oklahoma City bank messenger, of \$75,000. He fought extradition two weeks and finally was taken there for trial. August 18, 1929, he and a companion sawed the bars of the Oklahoma County jail and escaped.

#### CLEAR OF CHARGES HERE.

No police charges are pending against him in Kansas City. It is believed he joined the so-called "big time" gangsters after his escape from Oklahoma City. He was about 33 years old at the time of his death.

Other large robberies here for which Russell was arrested were those of the Liberty Garment Company, May 2, 1926, in which \$1,690 was taken, and a holdup May 14, 1927, of two men operating a dice game. There was \$9,600 taken. It was charged. Two others accused with Gibson were a Charles Carolla and Charles Gargotta, the records show. Gibson also was accused of being the leader of a gang of Negroes, planning daylight holdups for them.



037-5024

Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

## OUTLAW, HUNTED IN VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE, CAUGHT

Russell Gibson, Once of K.  
C. Slain as U. S. Traps  
4 in Chicago.

By United Press.  
CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Byron Bolton, described as a suspect in the St. Valentine's day massacre, was captured by federal agents Tuesday night after a machine gun battle in which Bolton's companion, Russell Gibson, formerly of Kansas City, was killed.

The identity of Bolton was kept secret by the government until Wednesday. Both he and Gibson allegedly were members of the notorious Arthur Baker-Alvin Karpis gang of kidnapers.

The gang is charged with the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer. Federal agents here who engineered the latest coup against gangland declared Gibson was a principal in the gang and Bolton a minor member.

Harold Nathan, assistant to J. Edgar Hoover of the division of investigation of the department of justice, said he was investigating a report that Bolton is wanted for questioning in the bloody St. Valentine's day gang massacre here several years ago.

### Silent on Women.

Nathan refused to confirm or deny that his men took into custody at least two women at the same time they fatally wounded Gibson and captured Bolton.

Gibson had been hunted since 1929 for a \$75,000 holdup of an Oklahoma City bank messenger and since early 1934 for his suspected part, with Karpis, Barker and members of the broken John Dillinger gang, in kidnaping Bremer. The millionaire St. Paul brewer paid \$200,000 for his release.

Sixteen agents of the department of justice had a part in bringing Gibson down. One of the women captured was said to be Mrs. Clara Gibson, wife of the slain man.

None of the federal men was wounded, although Gibson fired at least ten shots with a submachine

- A

The justice department agents, headed by Nathan, questioned the prisoners through the night in their headquarters in the Bankers building, but refused to divulge what they learned.

#### Shot Three Times.

Gibson was shot three times through the abdomen. Despite the fact he was questioned almost two hours before he died on an operating table, the outlaw told nothing that would aid in capture of others of the Bremer kidnapers. Nathan would not divulge whether Gibson even definitely incriminated himself.

Nathan and Melvin Purvis, chief federal agent in Chicago, intimated they discovered Gibson's hideout ten days ago in a large apartment building on the city's north side.

Relays of agents watched every movement of the flat's occupants and trailed them when they infrequently went on short shopping expeditions.

About 11 o'clock Tuesday night the agents sprung their trap. Sixteen men deployed around the building, guarding every exit. Neither Nathan nor Purvis was present. One man rapped on the door of the first floor apartment sheltering Gibson. The doorbell nameplate displayed the name S. A. Reed.

#### Fire Tear Gas Shells.

"Come out or get killed," the agent ordered. "You're surrounded."

Within seconds a burst of gunfire at the building's rear answered him. Men at the side of the building immediately fired six tear gas shells through dimly lighted windows of the apartment. Agents at the front broke in the door, capturing Bolton and the women.

At the rear, Gibson raced in darkness for the shelter of an alley. He fired in bursts at four agents who rose in his path. They answered with rifle and revolvers. Three bullets struck the outlaw. He died two hours later in a semi-delirium.

JAN 11 1935 PM



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| Mr. Nathan.....   |
| Mr. Tolson.....   |
| Mr. Clegg.....    |
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| Mr. Tamm.....     |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |

KIDNAPING

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# U.S. Agents Slay Suspected Bremer Kidnap Gang Member

By United Press

CHICAGO—Federal agents scored a major coup today in capture of two members of the notorious Barker-Karpis gang of Oklahoma, suspected of kidnaping Edward G. Bremer of St. Paul last year. Their principal prisoner died of bullet wounds received in a short fierce battle.

The man killed was Russell Gibson, Oklahoma and Missouri gangster and associate of Arthur (Doc) Barker and Alvin Karpis, the Southwest's most wanted outlaws. He was trapped in an apartment here.

He had been hunted since 1929 for a \$75,000 bank messenger holdup and since early 1934 for his suspected part, with Karpis, Barker and members of the broken John Dillinger gang, in kidnaping Bremer. The millionaire St. Paul brewer paid \$200,000 for his release.

Sixteen agents of the Department of Justice had a part in bringing Gibson down. They also captured another member of the gang and two women. One of the latter was said to be Mrs. Clara Gibson, wife of the slain man.

None of the Federal men was wounded, altho Gibson fired at least 10 shots with a sub-machine gun.

Gibson was shot three times thru the abdomen. He was questioned almost two hours before he died in an operating table.

*Daily News - Wash., D.C.  
Jan 9, 1935*

*109*

*Director*

"THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER"  
January 9, 1935

## One Man Is Wounded, Four Persons Seized In Swift Federal Raid

*Cincinnati Enquirer January 9 1935*

Chicago, January 8—(AP)—Russell Gibson, 32 years old, said by the Department of Justice to be a member of the Bremer kidnap mob, was shot in his abdomen and probably fatally wounded late tonight by Federal operatives who captured another man and two women.

Gibson was shot as he opened fire on a squad of about 15 agents sent to a North Side apartment to set a trap for him. Gibson's gun jammed and his shots were ineffective.

Willie Harrison, St. Louis, designated by the agents as a minor member of the gang, was captured. One of the women taken said she was Gibson's wife.

Among crimes blamed on the gang was the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

The agents were under the direction of E. J. Connelley of Cincinnati.

Doctors said the man probably would die.

The shooting occurred on the same day Melvin H. Purvis, absent on a mysterious errand for several weeks, returned to Chicago.

The women prisoners were hurried under heavy guard to the offices of the Division of Investigation in the Bankers Building.

The shooting occurred at an apartment at 3926 Pine Grove Avenue on the North Side.

It was in that locality that John Dillinger, late leader of the murder mad Hoosier mob, stayed most of the time that he was in Chicago and it was only a few blocks west of where he met death from blazing Federal guns on the night of July 22 as he stepped from a neighborhood motion picture theater.

The agents were tight-lipped as to the motives back of the raid, but the Chicago force led by H. H. Clegg, Purvis, and D. M. Ladd for months has concentrated all effort on blotting out the Dillinger gang—spurred by the reminder that the gang was responsible for the slayings of three Federal agents.

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# OUTLAW SLAIN BY U.S. AGENTS

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| Mr. Quinn.....    |
| Mr. Schilder..... |
| Mr. Tamm.....     |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |

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Chicago Tribune  
1-57(-A) JAN 8 1935

# SHOT IN BATTLE TO ESCAPE TRAP ON NORTH SIDE

## Use Guns and Gas In Raid; 3 Seized.

(Pictures on Back Page.)

Russell Gibson, ex-convict wanted for the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, millionaire St. Paul brewer, was shot and fatally wounded last night in a pitched battle with government agents.

Gibson, said to be a member of the notorious Arthur (Doc) Barker-Alvin Karpis gang, was shot three times in a desperate break for freedom. He died early this morning in the American hospital.

Also captured when trapped with Gibson in an apartment at 3920 Pine Grove avenue were Willie Harrison, described as a minor hoodlum from St. Louis; Mrs. Clara Gibson, wife of the dead man, and another woman whose name was not revealed.

### Trailed to North Side Lair.

Government men had the apartment under surveillance for the past week, according to Harold Nathan, right hand man of J. Edgar Hoover, head of the division of investigation of the department of justice, and were informed that Gibson had played an important part in the abduction of Bremer last January.

Harrison and the two women had lived there for the past two months, according to residents of the big 48 flat building, but Gibson is said to have arrived only yesterday from somewhere north. He was trailed by a government agent.

Mr. Nathan arrived in Chicago from St. Louis yesterday.



### SLAIN BY U.S. AGENTS.

Russell Gibson, suspect in kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul brewer.

### Building Is Surrounded.

The trap was ready. Sixteen agents, armed with machine guns, rifles, tear gas bombs, and wearing bulletproof vests, surrounded the building. They did not, however, notify the Town Hall police, in whose district the raid was being made, of the affair.

That nearly led to a tragic battle between the agents and the police a little later.

One group of agents went to the rear of the building to prevent escape from that quarter. Another group remained in the court of the apartment building. The third group, led by Earl J. Connelly, the agent in charge, went into the vestibule.

On the bell was the name "S. A. Reed." That was the first floor apartment, over an English basement, in which Gibson and his pals were known to be. Connelly rang the bell and shouted through the speaking tube:

"Come on down, one at a time. The place is surrounded."

### Opens Fire On Agents.

There was no reply. The agents with Connelly started up the stairs. Clara Gibson had just started out, but when she saw the government men, she darted back inside, slamming the door.

The agents opened fire.

Almost simultaneously shots came from the rear of the flat. Gibson, on hearing Connelly's first demand, had seized a heavy automatic rifle and started out the rear. He ran into the group of agents stationed in the alley.

Gibson fired one shot. A return blast from the government men literally blew the gun from his hand. He stooped to retrieve it and another volley caught him through the back.

Gibson tried to run. He ran into an arway, realized it was a blind alley, turned back, and collapsed.

### Shoot Into Wrong Flat.

In front of the building, the group of agents in the court had heard the firing, and decided that the gang had begun to "shoot it out." Mistaking the window of the apartment of J. H. Twitchell for one of the other apartment, they blew the glass panes out with shots and hurled three tear gas bombs inside.

Twitchell, an innocent man, terrified and bewildered, staggered to a small balcony, choking with tear gas and crying out that he surrendered. Harrison, meanwhile, had come down the inside stairs, his hands elevated, and made no resistance.

### Women Overcome by Fumes.

The women were overcome by the gas fumes. The fumes also spread through many other apartments in the building and a number of families were forced to flee to the air outside.

In the meantime, hearing the shots and shouting, neighbors phoned in half a dozen calls to the Town Hall police. As many squads responded, unaware of the government activity. Lieut. William V. Blaud led one squad into the court. He shouted:

"We are police officers."

The government men, he said,

Chicago Tribune  
JAN 9 1935

# AL OF KARPIS SHOT TO DEATH IN U. S. TRAP

Russell (Rusty) Gibson, bank robber, ex-convict and member of the Karpis-Barker gang long sought for the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer kidnaping, was dead today and his wife and another man and woman were under arrest following a sub-machine gun battle with 20 federal agents at 3920 Pine Grove ave.

Gibson, who was 33 and known also as Slim Gray, died at 1:40 a. m. in the operating table in American hospital, 850 Irving Park blvd., calmly refusing an anaesthetic as surgeons worked to save his life.

## CAUGHT IN TRAP

He was shot twice, once through the back and in the head, when he attempted shortly before midnight last night to shoot his way through the cordon of department of justice agents which had surrounded the



Russell (Rusty) Gibson . . . slain.

bedroom and hurled tear gas bombs into his apartment to drive him out. One of the two women captured in the raid identified herself as Mrs. Clara Gibson, wife of the slain gangster. The other woman was unidentified.

The man seized was identified as Byron Bolton, 32, a former sailor on partial disability pension from the government.

## TAKEN BY SURPRISE

The trap laid for Gibson was sprung too fast to give him a



Geneva Fisher, 15, of 815 Sheridan rd., ventured into the line of fire just before the shooting began; agents pushed her back.

chance to put on his bullet-proof vest. It was found lying beside him on the back stairway of the apartment building, where he fell mortally wounded. Nearby was the sub-machine gun, with 10 bullets fired from its magazine.

In his pockets were the keys for a big sedan with Michigan license plates, which was found in a nearby alley. In the apartment, federal

agents found four automatics and more than 100 rounds of ammunition.

Police reported that \$96 was found on Gibson.

The raid was led by Agent E. J. Connelly.

As Connelly and his men walked into the hall, Geneva Fisher, 15, of 856 Sheridan rd., walked down the stairs. She had been visiting Jane Falkner, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Falkner, who reside in the building. The agents warned her to go back upstairs and stay inside.

## WIFE WALKS OUT

At that moment, a woman, later identified as Mrs. Gibson, walked out of one of the front first floor apartments with a chow dog. The agents commanded her:

"Go back inside and tell them to come out and surrender. We're here to take them."

The agents then hurled tear gas bombs through the windows of the apartment in which Gibson was hiding. Mrs. Gibson, the other woman and the other man rushed out, hands upraised and half-blinded from the gas. Mrs. Gibson cried:

"I can't breathe, I can't breathe, and I can't see!"

Then Gibson fled out the rear, his sub-machine gun spitting fire. Suddenly it jammed and the agents hidden in the rear opened fire. Gibson fell.

Chicago Daily Times  
JAN 9 1935

# Hunt Karpis and Barker After Killing of Outlaw

With the killing by federal agents early today of Russell ("Rusty") Gibson, Oklahoma bank robber, and the arrest of an ex-sailor friend and several women, the government's investigation into the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, is concentrated here on a hunt for Arthur ("Doc") Barker and Alvin Karpis, ring-leaders of the mob.

Gibson was fatally wounded shortly before midnight last night when he tried to shoot his way out of the rear of an apartment at 3920 Nine Grove avenue, where he had been living quietly for three months.

The wounded man, who was tricky enough to escape from the county jail at Oklahoma City in 1929, where he was being held for the \$75,000 robbery of a bank messenger, died at 1:40 a. m. in the American hospital.

## Agents Surround House.

Sixteen federal agents, led by Earl J. Connelly, surrounded the apartment house, heavily armed and equipped with tear gas bombs. One of them went to a nearby drug store and telephoned the apartment occupied by Gibson, his wife and another man, at first believed to have been William Harrison, a

golf professional and accused by the government operatives of being a lesser member of the Karpis-Barker gang. Later he was identified as Byron Bolton, former sailor, described as a "hanger-on" of the St. Paul mob.

"You're surrounded, and unless you come out of there quietly we're coming up to get you," he told the woman who answered the phone. She hung up the receiver.

Several of the agents then ascended to the second floor apartment and hurled tear gas bombs through the front door, which they forced open.

In the meantime Gibson, armed with a sub-machine gun, emerged from the rear, and fired one shot. The gun jammed, and the agents opened fire. Two of their bullets inflicted mortal wounds despite his bullet-proof vest.

The tear-gas bombs effectively routed Mrs. Gibson, who was half-carried down the stairs to the fresh air, an agent leading her dog. The animal fled when unleashed. The

other man, hands high in the air and tears streaming down his cheeks, surrendered.

The tear-gas bombs routed other tenants in the apartment building. Some of the agents, it was learned, fired through the window of the adjoining apartment of J. H. Twitchell, hurling bombs after the bullets. Twitchell a few moments later staggered out.

Harold Nathan, right bower to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice, arrived here yesterday from St. Louis, probably to direct the capture of Gibson. At the local office of the bureau in the "Bankers' building" he began questioning Mrs. Gibson, the unidentified hoodlum, and three other women.

It was learned, however, that 100 pounds of ammunition, the sub-machine gun and other weapons were found in the apartment, which had been under surveillance for several weeks.

Under the alias of Roy ("Slim") Gray, Gibson was indicted in St. Paul along with John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin and others on the charge of handling the Bremer ransom money.

Gibson originally came from Kansas City, and served a two-year term in the Missouri state prison for flourishing a gun in 1927. Oklahoma City authorities had spent \$7,000 in trying to run him down since his 1929 escape.

Subsequently, it developed, he had gone to St. Paul, for much of last year the favorite haunt of the late John Dillinger and his middle-western freebooters.

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| Mr. Nathan.....   |
| Mr. Tolson.....   |
| Mr. Clegg.....    |
| Mr. Baughman..    |
| Chief Clerk.....  |
| Mr. Coffey.....   |
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Chicago Daily News  
7-576-A JAN 9 1935

# SLAIN IN MACHINE GUN BATTLE



(TIMES Photo)  
 Russell (Rusty) Gibson, 33 years old, an ex-convict, was shot and fatally wounded by federal agents in a raid on his apartment at 3920 Pine Grove ave. Dr. Warren S. Homer is holding Gibson's head while Nurse M. Noonan and Sergt. Clarence Sweeney look on.

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JAN 9 1935

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Chicago Daily Times

JAN 9 1935

# U.S. Agents Seize Women as Karpis Aid Is Slain

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| Mr. Clegg    | ✓ |
| Mr. Baughman | ✓ |
| Chief Clerk  | ✓ |
| Mr. Coffey   | ✓ |
| Mr. Edwards  | ✓ |
| Mr. Egan     | ✓ |
| Mr. Harbo    | ✓ |
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| Mr. Lester   | ✓ |
| Mr. Quinn    | ✓ |
| Mr. Schilder | ✓ |
| Mr. Tamm     | ✓ |
| Mr. Tracy    | ✓ |
| Miss Gandy   | ✓ |

## KILL KARPIS AID IN ROUNDUP OF BREMER GANG

Russell ("Rusty") Gibson, 22, member of the vicious Barker-Karpis gang, fell early today in a hail of federal bullets as the Department of Justice opened a campaign to round up the kidnapers of Edward G. Bremer.

In an apartment at 3220 Pine Grove av., outside of which the shooting took place, were several women and a man, who identified himself as Byron Bolton, ex-sailor.

It was believed, however, that Bolton may be the man who has been sought in the Bremer case under the name of Willie Harrison.

That the federal government is definitely on the trail of the \$200,000 kidnapers appeared to be established.

### U. S. ACE LEADS RAID.

Here to lead the offensive is Harold Nathan, assistant director of the investigation division of the Department of Justice. It was learned that the agents have a line on all members of the gang, with the exception of one minor character.

Asked if the trail is "hot," Nathan replied:

"I think the Cubs will win the pennant this year."

The identity of the man captured in the furious gun battle was being closely guarded by Nathan.

However, it was apparent that the government considers him a

7-576-A Chicago American JAN 9 1935

Continued from First Page.

prize in the Barker-Karpis roundup.

One of the women held is believed to be Gibson's wife, Clara. She was being questioned about other members of the gang.

#### HIDE WOMEN'S IDENTITY.

Who the other women are was another closely guarded secret, indicating that the investigators consider them important.

Gibson was shot twice, once by a .351 caliber rifle bullet that tore through his "bullet proof" vest and penetrated his right lung. This was the fatal wound. The second bullet grazed the top of his head.

The raid on the Gibson apartment was conducted by sixteen agents, who surrounded the building.

#### PHONE WARNING, ATTACK.

With the trap set, one of the agents called the flat from a neighborhood drug store and ordered Gibson and the other occupants to surrender. "Something new in police methods."

There was no response except the click of the receiver as she hung up.

When agents approached the door of the apartment, all was quiet. They then smashed in the door and hurried tear gas bombs into the apartment.

It was then that Gibson appeared on the back porch, shooting wildly with a sub-machine gun. He fired one clip, when his gun jammed.

#### SLAIN BY VOLLEY.

The agents, some of them armed with powerful rifles, returned the fire and Gibson fell, mortally wounded. He died at the American Hospital, and according to reports, made no statement other than to identify himself and his wife.

Bolton and the woman believed to be Mrs. Gibson, were almost overcome by the tear gas and surrendered without resistance.

Bolton is not held with the women at Department of Justice headquarters, Mr. Nathan said, but the federal chief refused to say where he was taken or to make further disclosures regarding his identity. He denied that he is either Parker or Karpis and added:

"We don't want to make another mistake, so we will wait a few hours before saying who he is. Anyway we have someone, and we will keep him."

#### TIPPED OFF WEEK AGO.

Nathan said federal agents learned a week ago that Gibson, a woman and another man were occupying the Pine Grove av. apartment.

The apartment is on the second floor, and Miss Geneva Fisher, a 25-year-old girl who lives at 356 Sheridan road and was visiting in

the building almost blocked the raid.

Knowing nothing of what was going on, she walked downstairs as federal agents, with guns ready, came up the stairs.

It was said that although Bolton and the woman believed to be Mrs. Gibson had been in the apartment for the past two months, Gibson arrived only yesterday from St. Louis and was trailed here by federal agents.

Nathan, who is right-hand man to J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the division of investigation, arrived in Chicago from St. Louis yesterday to take charge of the raid.

After surrounding the apartment house, one group of agents was sent to the rear, another remained in the court of the building, while a third party, led by Earl J. Connelly, the agent in charge of the actual attack, went into the vestibule.

#### ORDERED TO SURRENDER.

Connelly rang the speaking-tube bell above which was the name "E. A. Reed." He shouted through the tube:

"Come down one at a time. The place is surrounded."

There was no answer. As the agents started upstairs, a woman thought to have been Mrs. Gibson started out, but when she saw the armed men she darted back inside, slamming the door.

At the same instant, shots rang out in the rear of the building as Gibson made his desperate break for liberty.

The agents in front of the building thought a gang battle was in progress. They mistook an apartment occupied by J. H. Twitchell for the Gibson flat, blew window panes in with shots and threw three tear gas bombs inside.

Twitchell, innocent and bewildered, staggered to a small balcony and cried:

"I surrender!"

He was ordered to jump down, which he did, and then was held fifteen minutes for questioning before he established his identity and

was released. Two women in the Twitchell apartment were partly overcome by gas fumes, which penetrated several other apartments in the building.

#### NEAR CLASH WITH POLICE.

Town Hall police were not notified of the impending raid and this omission nearly led to another mistake that might have been tragic.

Citizens hearing shots notified the police station and several squads responded. Lieut. William Blaul led one police detachment into the courtyard shouting:

"We are police officers!" The government agents, he said, did not identify themselves, but just when a battle seemed imminent, Blaul realized who they were and kept his men from firing.

Chicago American

JAN 8 1935

## AN OUTLAW: IN LIFE, IN DEATH



Russell Gibson, right-hand man of Alvin Karpis, outlaw chief, who was slain early today in a raid by federal agents on a Pine Grove av. apartment. At left the late gangster is shown as he served a term in the Missouri penitentiary. Below, he lies dead in a hospital, his "bullet-proof" vest having failed to protect him. A man and four young women were seized in the Gibson apartment and are being held.



*Chicago American*  
JAN 9 1935

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# U. S. NAILS

# ANOTHER OUTLAW

## THUG CUT DOWN BY BULLETS AS HE FLEES TRAP

**Rusty Gibson, Wanted In Kidnaping, Dies  
When His Machine Gun Jams; Wife  
And Companion Are Captured**

CHICAGO—(P)—Federal agents have struck with deadly accuracy again in their war on crime—this time to kill Russell (Rusty) Gibson, 32-year-old suspect of the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker.

Trapped in a Northside apartment Tuesday night, Gibson, an ex-convict and reputed member of the abduction gang of Alvin Karpis and Arthur Barker, attempted to shoot it out with a picked squad of 15 agents, but his miniature machine gun jammed, and he fell mortally wounded.

Two bullets from the quick firing rifles of the federal men hit their mark and one of them found a fatal spot despite the fact that Gibson, who was also known as "Slim" Gray, was wearing a "bullet proof" vest. The bullet penetrated the vest. Gibson died in a hospital early Wednesday.

Gibson attempted to flee out of the back door of the apartment at 392 Pine Grove Avenue—not far from the spot where John Dillinger was shot and killed last July 22, only to meet the withering fire of the agent. Gibson fired as he ran, but was able to shoot but one bullet before his weapon failed.

Meanwhile the agents had flooded the apartment with tear gas, forcing the surrender of a man and a woman, who identified herself as Mrs. Clara Gibson, widow of the slain gangster. The identity of the man was not disclosed.

The raid was the culmination of a week's surveillance over the apartment, where Gibson had been living three months. How the agents discovered his whereabouts was not disclosed, but their plans for their latest thrust at the underworld element were carefully laid.

Under direction of E. J. Connelley and others attached to the local office of the division of investigation, the agents surrounded the place before attempting to get their man. When they knocked on the door there was no answer, but almost at the same time Gibson dashed out of the rear door. Before he died he was questioned by Agent Thomas Myers, but ad-

mitted nothing except the identity of himself and his wife, and to name his male companion as a man named "Willie." He refused to answer other questions.

When the federal men entered the front lobby of the apartment building they met Mrs. Gibson who was just leaving with her Chow dog. She returned to her apartment, however, after being told to warn the others that the "agents were coming." A few minutes later the door bell was rung and the first tear gas bomb was tossed. One of these went through the window of the home of Jay H. Twitchell, who lives in an adjoining apartment.

Twitchell climbed out a window with upraised hands, shouting that he surrendered. He was questioned but later released when he proved his identity.

Mrs. Gibson, still leading the dog, staggered out of the apartment, gasping and crying. About the same time Gibson's unidentified male companion also ran out, with tears rolling down his cheeks. Both were taken to the Department of Justice offices for questioning.

Nathan said that several weapons were found in the apartment, and it was reported that 100 rounds of ammunition had been discovered in a suitcase uncovered in the hide-out.

In addition to the Bremer kidnaping Gibson was wanted for the robbery of \$75,000 from a bank messenger in Oklahoma City carrying funds from the American First National Bank, May 24, 1935. He

escaped from the Oklahoma County Jail in August, 1929, where he was held for questioning in the crime.

He served a two-year term in the Missouri State Penitentiary for flourishing a deadly weapon in 1927. Gibson's first criminal record was made in Kansas City in 1919, when he was arrested as a hold-up suspect but was later released.

Department of Justice records disclosed that warrants were outstanding charging Gibson and his wife with transporting a stolen car from St. Joseph, Mo., to Oklahoma City in May, 1929. His mother, Mrs. Nancy Gibson, and brother, McKinley, are residents of Kansas City, official records stated.

At St. Paul and Minneapolis police officials said they had no record that Gibson was sought for the "snatching" of Bremer, who was held prisoner by a gang for 23 days until \$200,000 ransom was paid. Bremer, the son of a wealthy St. Paul brewer, was abducted last Jan. 17. From five to eight men were believed to have been in the gang of kidnapers.

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| Chief Clerk  | ✓ |
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| Mr. Harbo    | ✓ |
| Mr. Keith    | ✓ |
| Mr. Lester   | ✓ |
| Mr. Quinn    | ✓ |
| Mr. Schilder | ✓ |
| Mr. Tamm     | ✓ |
| Mr. Tracy    | ✓ |
| Miss Gandy   | ✓ |

Clipping taken from The Birmingham News  
1 - 9 - 35

WASHINGTON TIMES

January 10, 1935.

## BOLTON QUIZZED AS FINGER MAN

CHICAGO, Jan. 10 (I.N.S.).—Hunted for nearly six years as the suspected "finger man" in the St. Valentine's Day massacre of seven gangsters here in 1929, Byron Bolton, 36, was questioned at length today by Federal investigators and police.

Bolton was captured Tuesday by Federal raiders who trapped and shot to death Russell Gibson, member of the Alvin Karpis—"Doc" Barker gang, and a suspect in the \$200,000 Edward Bremer kidnaping. Bolton was hiding in Gibson's apartment.

### Given the Signal

From a rented room across from the North Clark Street massacre garage, Bolton is believed to have given the signal which sent Capone gunmen into the building to mow down the seven "Bugs" Moran gangsters, according to Police Lieutenant William Cusack.

In the room police found a letter addressed to "Byron Bolton." The letter bore a Virden, Ill., postmark.

### Bought Machine Gun

Investigation disclosed a Byron Bolton and Willie Heeney had purchased a machine gun before the killings. Heeney was a known member of the old Capone gang.

It was learned Bolton had acted as chauffeur in St. Louis for Fred "Killer" Burke, an identified participant in the massacre. Burke is now serving a life term in the Michigan penitentiary for another murder.

Nathan today was directing a search for Karpis and Barker, leaders of the kidnap gang credited with abduction of Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker. The pair have been indicted for the kidnaping.

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| Mr. Tracy.....             |
| Miss Gandy.....            |

Associated Press Photo.  
**Russell Gibson, 32-year-old suspect in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, of St. Paul, who was killed yesterday in Chicago by Department of Justice Agents.**

## Women's 'Tips' Send Federals Hunting Karpis

**Slaying of Gibson Spurs  
Agents in Drive for  
Other Kidnapers.**

Chicago, Jan. 9 (AP).—Federal marksmen, victorious in their first battle against members of the Karpis-Baker abduction ring, followed an apparently warm trail today in their efforts to apprehend the entire mob.

With one of the gang men slain by Government agents and another a closely guarded prisoner, the agents combed the city for Alvin Karpis, Arthur "Doc" Baker and the henchmen who aided them in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul bank president and brewery head.

It was learned the operatives had definite information concerning the whereabouts of the outlaws they sought. It was believed the leads were furnished by several unnamed women they captured last night in a sensational raid on a hideout frequented by the fugitives.

Strengthening the belief a wholesale roundup was imminent was the activity of Harold Nathan, assistant director of the division of investigation of the Department of Justice. He arrived last night from St. Louis to take charge of the important case.

Shortly afterward 16 agents surrounded a North Side flat, Russell "Rusty" Gibson, 32, Southwestern desperado and suspect in the Bremer kidnaping, attempted to blast his way through the blockade. His machine gun jammed. He ran into the Federal fire. One bullet grazed his head. A rifle slug tore through his bullet-proof vest. He died several hours later at a hospital.

Meanwhile, the other agents bombed the women and a man identified as Byron Bolton, 32-year-old former sailor and minor member of the mob, from the apartment with tear gas.

Gibson was charged with handling some of the Bremer ransom money under the aliases of Roy Gray, Glen Gray and Smith in the indictment returned against 11 persons in the case. He also was wanted for the \$75,000 kidnaping of a bank messenger in Oklahoma City.

*Washington Post*  
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| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Mr. Nease.....    |



*Russell Gibson, 32-year-old suspect in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, of St. Paul, who was killed yesterday in Chicago by Department of Justice Agents.*

Associated Press Photo.

WASH. POST

JAN 10 1935

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| Mr. Nathan  | ✓ |
| Mr. Tolson  | ✓ |
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| Mr. Glavin  | ✓ |
| Chief Clerk | ✓ |
| Mr. Egan    | ✓ |
| Mr. Harbo   | ✓ |
| Mr. Lester  | ✓ |
| Mr. Quinn   | ✓ |
| Mr. Tracy   | ✓ |
| Mr. Tamm    | ✓ |
| Miss Gandy  | ✓ |

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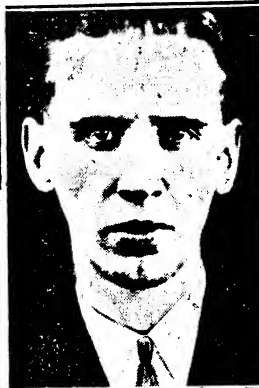
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*Washington Post*  
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| Mr. Tamm.....     |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Mr. Gandy.....    |

NEW YORK POST, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1935

**RUBBED OUT**



*Associated Press Photo*

**RUSSELL GIBSON**

It's the late Russell Gibson. For Federal agents cornered him in Chicago and shot him to death. Gibson was a desperado, a jail fugitive, a suspect in the \$20,000 Bremer kidnaping, an all-around bad man and public enemy.

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| Mr. Tamm.....     |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |

JAN 10 1935

NEW YORK AMERICAN

## KIDNAPING RING TRAIL

### Federal Agents Believe End of Bremer Gang Near

CHICAGO, Jan. 9 (AP).—Federal marksmen, victorious in their first battle against members of the Karpis-Barker abduction ring, followed an apparently warm trail today in their efforts to apprehend the entire mob.

With one of the gang slain by Government agents and another a closely guarded prisoner, the agents combed the city for Alvin Karpis, Arthur "Doc" Barker and the henchmen who aided them in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul bank president and brewery head.

It was learned the operatives had definite information concerning the whereabouts of the outlaws they sought.

#### One is Shot Dead

Strengthening the belief a wholesale roundup was imminent was the activity of Harold Nathan, assistant director of the Division of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

Shortly after Nathan arrived from St. Louis last night, 16 agents surrounded a North Side flat. Russell "Rusty" Gibson, 32, Southwestern desperado and sus-

pect in the Bremer kidnaping, attempted to blast his way through the blockade. His machine gun jammed. He ran into the Federal fire. One bullet grazed his head. A .381-calibre rifle shot tore through his bullet-proof vest. He died several hours later.

Meanwhile, other agents bombed the women and a man identified as Byron Bolton, 32, former sailor and minor member of the mob, from the apartment with tear gas.

7-576-A

# IDENTIFY GIBSON PAL AS SUSPECT IN '29 MASSACRE

## Hunted as Finger Man in Valentine's Day Crime.

(Pictures on back page.)

Byron Bolton, 35 years old, captured by federal agents Tuesday night in the raid at 3820 Pine Grove avenue in which Russell Gibson was slain, was identified yesterday as a man sought by Chicago police for nearly six years for participation in the St. Valentine's day massacre.

According to information in the hands of J. Edgar Hoover, head of the division of investigation of the department of justice, Bolton apparently fled from Chicago after the massacre and did not join the Barker-Karpis gang until after the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer.

How Bolton was traced after the 1929 massacre of seven George [Bugs] Moran gangsters and how the information which eventually pointed to him as the man captured Tuesday was secured was told by Lieut. William Cusack of the Chicago detective bureau.

Find Clew in Watchers' Room.

After the killings, in a garage at 3122 North Clark street, it was learned that two men had rented a room across the street a week before, obviously to get the "lay of the land." In the abandoned room was found a letter addressed to "Byron Bolton," and it bore a postmark of Virden, Ill. Lieut. Cusack went to Virden and found Bolton's parents living on a farm between it and Thayer, both small towns in the central part of the state. He obtained a picture of Bolton from the father, and it was identified as that of one of the men who had rented the room across from the garage.

The elder Bolton also declared his son had been in the navy during the war. Lieut. Cusack traced Byron Bolton's movements to St. Louis, and learned that he had been a chauffeur for Fred [Killer] Burke. Burke had been identified as a participant in the massacre, but is now serving a life term in the Michigan penitentiary for another murder.

Linked to Machine Gun Sale.

Police also learned that a machine gun had been sold to a Byron Bolton and Willie Heeney, the latter a known member of the old Capone gang.

When Bolton was taken into custody Tuesday, he first gave the name of Willie Harrison of St. Louis. Later, however, Mr. Nathan declared he had said he was really Byron Bolton of Thayer, Ill.

Mr. Nathan learned also that the captive had been a sailor during the war, and that information, together with the picture obtained by Lieut. Cusack, clinched the identification. Lieut. Cusack plans to question Bolton today.

It was learned at the detective bureau that on Oct. 10 last, the department of justice in Washington forwarded to Chicago police a set of finger prints of Byron Bolton, with the notation if captured, to "hold for the United States government."

Gibson Indicted in St. Paul.

In the meantime, information came from St. Paul that Gibson had been indicted there under the name of Glen [Slim] Gray for handling part of the Bremer ransom money. Indicted with him were John J. [Boss] McLaughlin, Chicago politician, and eight others.

In addition to handling the ransom money, Gibson also is said to have participated in the actual kidnaping of the millionaire St. Paul brewer, according to Mr. Nathan.

Gibson also had been sought for a \$75,000 bank messenger robbery in Oklahoma City in 1929. He was arrested, but made his escape from the jail in that city.

Spurs Hunt for Karpis.

The slaying of Gibson has spurred the government search for Arthur [Doc] Barker, and Alvin Karpis, ring-leaders of the kidnap gang, now under indictment for the abduction.

A post-mortem examination of Gibson's body showed that he was killed by a .351 caliber rifle bullet which pierced his bulletproof vest and lodged in his right lung.

In the wake of the gunfight in and around the 48 flat building where Gibson and his companions were trapped, came considerable resentment about the city over the methods employed by the agents.

It was pointed out that the agents made their raid without informing local authorities—neither the police commissioner or the captain of the district in which the gunfight and tear gas bombing took place.

Narrowly Miss 2d Battle.

As a result, Town Hall police responded to the calls of frightened residents of the neighborhood when the firing started. The police squads being ignorant of the fact that government

men were conducting a raid, came close to having a pitched battle with the agents.

Mr. Nathan, when asked why police were not informed said that they were not concerned in the case. He also remarked that the agents had no time to inform them.

J. H. Twitchell, who was awakened from sleep when agents, mistaking his windows for those of the Gibson apartment, fired a volley of shots through them, then hurried in three tear gas bombs, declined to make any official condemnation of the government men.

"I'm too glad to be alive," he explained.

Police Commissioner James P. Allman also refused to comment on the action of the agents in not informing his department of the raid.

Chicago Tribune  
JAN 10 1935

11 DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1935



(Associated Press Wirephoto)  
**BANDIT'S END.**—This exclusive Wirephoto taken in Chicago shows Russel Gibson, 32, being treated just before he died in the hospital early yesterday after being shot down by Federal agents in gunfight. Gibson was a jail fugitive and a suspect in the \$200,000 Bremer kidnaping.

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 Miss Gandy.....

### A FEDERAL RAID.

No community favors drastic measures for the disposal of gunmen more than ours, but as to the affair on Pine Grove avenue Tuesday night we suggest to the department of justice that Illinois is a sovereign commonwealth and when its agents enter its territory that fact must be respected. The department of justice agents acted in the raid of Tuesday night as if they were in a conquered territory or in a no man's land without government. They ignored the existence of the Chicago police and it was a piece of great good fortune that when the latter arrived on the scene there was not a fatal exchange between them and the federal force. A sharp protest should be made to the department of justice, which, we may perhaps assume, has not yet decided to abolish the constitutional system of the United States.

Other phases of this raid are not creditable. We highly approve of the spirit of the department's boast, "We get our man," but the reckless tactics adopted in getting Gibson call for correction. A flat adjoining Gibson's was by mistake fired into and gassed. Methods of the police should not be based on the theory that the apprehension of a criminal is more important than the safety of law-abiding individuals.

NOT RECORDED

*Chicago Tribune*

JAN 10 1935



**CAPTURED HERE.**

Byron Bolton, caught by federal agents as they killed Russell Gibson.

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| Mr. Nathan.....   | ✓  |
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| Mr. Lester.....   | EB |
| Mr. Quinn.....    |    |
| Mr. Schilder..... | ✓  |
| Mr. Tamm.....     | ✓  |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |    |



(TRIBUNE Photo.)

**ARSENAL FOUND IN FLAT BY GOVERNMENT AGENTS AFTER THEY KILLED MEMBER OF KARPIS GANG**  
Guns, ammunition, bulletproof vest, and other articles discovered in flat at 3920 Pine Grove avenue by agents who shot and fatally wounded Russell Gibson, ex-convict wanted in the Bremer kidnaping at St. Paul. Gibson's companion, identified as Byron Bolton, once a suspect in the St. Valentine day massacre, and two women were captured. (Story on page 3.)

*Chicago Tribune*

not identify themselves, but just when a pitched battle seemed imminent, Lieut. Blaul kept his men from firing and established the identity of the other group.

#### Second Tragedy Averted.

In the rear a similar scene was taking place. Police Sergeants Everett Mullaney, Martin Walsh and Fred Leckie, hearing the shots fired at Gibson, came into the alley. Seeing the government men, they mistook them for gangsters and deployed behind available cover, ready to fight it out. Just in time one of the agents cried: "We're D. J. men!"

Inside the apartment where Gibson and the others had been staying the agents found four Browning automatic rifles, ten pistols, several sawed-off shotguns, 500 rounds of ammunition, and three bulletproof vests.

At the hospital a government agent was at Gibson's bedside attempting to question the dying gangster. No official comment was made, but it was said that Gibson remained obdurate in the face of demands to reveal "Where is Karpis?"

"He was too weak to talk," was the government statement. Gibson died a short time later. In Gibson's pocket agents found \$5,000 in large bills.

#### Other Kidnapers at Large.

Gibson is ~~said to be~~ the first of the actual kidnapers of Bremer to be accounted for. Barker and Karpis, under indictment for the crime, are still fugitives. John J. [Boss] McLaughlin, Chicago politician, also under indictment as an accessory, has confessed to handling a part of the \$200,000 ransom.

Gibson's record of crime dated back to 1917, when he was arrested in Kansas City, Mo., and sentenced to the state penitentiary for "flourishing a deadly weapon." In 1929 he took part in the \$75,000 robbery of a messenger for the American First National bank in Oklahoma City. He was arrested for that crime, but escaped from the Oklahoma county jail on Aug. 20, 1929, while awaiting trial.

He and his wife are also wanted for violation of the Dyer act, having brought a stolen automobile from St. Joseph, Mo., to Oklahoma City at the time of the bank messenger robbery.

Melvin H. Purvis, local head of the department of justice agents, returned to Chicago yesterday in company with Mr. Nathan. Purvis has been absent since the killing of two federal agents by Baby Face Nelson at Barrington on Nov. 27.

*Chicago Tribune*  
JAN 8 1935



**FEDERAL AGENTS BATTLE GANG IN FLAT; BREMER KIDNAP SUSPECT SLAIN.**  
Arrow indicates flat in apartment building at 3920 Pine Grove avenue where U. S. agents last night fatally wounded Russell Gibson, ex-convict and alleged member of the Karpis-Barker gang, after gun and tear gas battle. (TRIBUNE Photo.) (Story on page 1.)

*Chicago Tribune*  
JAN 9 1935

# KARPIS' PAL KILLED BY U. S. AGENTS

*Chicago Herald & Examiner*

7-516-A

JAN 9 1935



**CRIME'S PENALTY** — Russell Gibson, right-hand man of Alvin Karpis, gang leader, is shown after he was fatally shot last night by federal agents. Dr. Homer S. Warren is shown holding up his head at a hospital. Gibson wore a "bullet-proof" vest but it didn't save his life.

*Chicago Herald & Examiner*

JAN 9 1935

# SHOT IN BATTLE AT APARTMENT; SEIZE 3 OTHERS

Raiders Trap Kidnap Sus-  
pects; Gibson Falls as Gun  
Jams; Sought in Bremer Case

(Pictures on Back Page.)

Russell Gibson, 33, right-  
hand man of Alvin Karpis,  
public enemy No. 1, was  
shot and killed here last  
night.

He was felled as he tried to blast  
his way, with a miniature machine-  
gun, through a ring of federal  
agents who trapped him at 3920  
Pine Grove av.

Seized, choking with gas from a  
tear bomb thrown into their apart-  
ment by the raiders, were a man  
companion of Gibson, whom the  
agents would not identify, and two  
women, one of whom called herself  
Clara Gibson, wife of the dead man.

## CRITICALLY WOUNDED.

At the American Hospital it was  
found that bullets had pierced Gib-  
son's liver and one lung, despite  
the fact that he wore a bullet-proof  
vest. He died an hour later, refus-  
ing to answer questions put by the  
United States agents.

Gibson, with other members of  
the Karpis gang, had been sought  
in connection with the \$200,000 kid-  
naping of Edward G. Bremer,  
wealthy St. Paul banker, on Jan-  
uary 17, 1934.

A week ago federal agents  
learned Gibson was living in the  
Pine Grove av. apartment. Harold  
Nathan, assistant director of the  
division of investigation of the De-  
partment of Justice at Washington,  
came to Chicago to trail the fugi-  
tive.

Last night sixteen agents sur-  
rounded the place.

## RAID ALMOST BLOCKED.

Miss Geneva Fisher, 15, of 856  
Sheridan road, who was visiting in  
the building, almost blocked the  
raid when, innocently, she walked  
downstairs as federal agents, guns  
in hand, came up to the second  
floor apartment. Warned, she re-  
treated to the apartment of friends.

When there was no response to  
knocks at Gibson's door, the agents  
smashed it down, hurling a gas  
bomb inside.

## DASHES OUT, SHOOTING.

Gibson dashed out the rear door,  
firing with a high-powered pistol  
resembling a sub-machine gun. It  
jammed after one burst of shots  
and he was shot down by the  
agents. The others were seized in  
the gas-filled apartment.

Gibson once served a term in the  
Missouri penitentiary for "flourish-  
ing a gun." He was arrested in  
Oklahoma City, June 15, 1929, for a  
\$75,000 bank robbery, but escaped.  
He had \$5,000 in his pocket when he  
died.

Chicago Herald & Examiner  
JAN 9 1935



**KARPIS' PAL SLAIN**— Russell Gibson trapped and slain by federal agents last night, as he appeared while serving a sentence in the Missouri penitentiary. Gibson was being hunted as a suspect in the Bremer kidnaping.

*Chicago Herald & Examiner*

JAN 9 1935

# St. Valentine Massacre

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Mr. Nathan.....   |
| Mr. Tolson.....   |
| Mr. Clegg.....    |
| Mr. Baughman..... |
| Chief Clerk.....  |
| Mr. Coffey.....   |
| Mr. Edwards.....  |
| Mr. Egan.....     |
| Mr. Harbo.....    |
| Mr. Keith.....    |
| Mr. Lester.....   |
| Mr. Quinn.....    |
| Mr. Schilder..... |
| Mr. Tamm.....     |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |

## 'Finger Man' Seized by U. S.

### at Gibson Hideout

*Chicago Herald & Examiner*

JAN 10 1935

## SIGNALLED GANG FIRING SQUAD, ASSERT POLICE

Ex-Golf Instructor Hunted  
Since '29; Captured as Fed-  
eral Men Kill Karpis' Pal

Byron Bolton, long sought as the "finger man" who gave the signal to Capone gunmen for the St. Valentine's Day massacre of 1929, was in federal custody last night.

He is the man captured Tuesday night when government agents trapped and shot to death Russell Gibson of the Alvin-Karpis-"Doc" Barker gang outside Gibson's apartment at 3820 Pine Grove av.

### POINTED OUT VICTIMS.

Bolton, who has lived at Virden and Springfield, Ill., and who was for a time a St. Louis golf professional, is said by police to have rented a room across from the scene of the St. Valentine's Day massacre, in which seven members of the "Bugs" Moran gang were shot down at 2122 N. Clark st. When the intended victims had gone into their headquarters there, he signaled the firing squad.

The killing of Gibson also revealed that the federal men now have the weapons they need to obey the government's order to shoot to kill in their war on gangsters. It was no mere chance that they shot Gibson through his bullet-proof vest. They have been supplied with high-powered rifles that pierce the vests.

### PURSUED KARPIS.

Meanwhile, the government continued its search for Karpis and Barker in Chicago. The federal forces were headed by Harold Nathan, second in command at Washington to J. Edgar Hoover in the Department of Justice drive on gangs.

Nathan said Gibson had been indicted under the name of "Slim" Gray in the kidnaping of the St. Paul banker, Bremer. Nathan added that Gibson and John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin of Chicago were believed by the government to be the men delegated to put the ransom money into circulation.

Seized in the apartment where Gibson was shot was an arsenal consisting of three Browning machine guns, one Thompson sub-machine gun, three .38 caliber-revolvers, a .45 caliber automatic and two bullet-proof vests.

*Chicago Herald & Examiner*

JAN 10 1935



**GIBSON ARSENAL** — Guns and ammunition found after the slaying of Russell Gibson, lieutenant of Alvin Karpis. The "arsenal" includes shotguns, rifles, revolvers and pistols. At the right, indicated by arrow is the "bullet-proof" vest which special federal bullets pierced. Automobile license and other tools of the criminal were in the two bags.—Herald and Examiner photo.

576-11

*Chicago Herald & Examiner*

JAN 10 1935

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Mr. Nathan   | ✓ |
| Mr. Tolson   | ✓ |
| Mr. Clegg    | ✓ |
| Mr. Baughman | ✓ |
| Chief Clerk  | ✓ |
| Mr. Coffey   | ✓ |
| Mr. Edwards  | ✓ |
| Mr. Egan     | ✓ |
| Mr. Harbo    | ✓ |
| Mr. Keith    | ✓ |
| Mr. Lester   | ✓ |
| Mr. Quinn    | ✓ |
| Mr. Schilder | ✓ |
| Mr. Tamm     | ✓ |
| Mr. Tracy    | ✓ |
| Miss Gandy   | ✓ |

### A FEDERAL RAID.

No community favors drastic measures for the disposal of gunmen more than ours, but as to the affair on Pine Grove avenue Tuesday night we suggest to the department of justice that Illinois is a sovereign commonwealth and when its agents enter its territory that fact must be respected. The department of justice agents acted in the raid of Tuesday night as if they were in a conquered territory or in a no man's land without government. They ignored the existence of the Chicago police and it was a piece of great good fortune that when the latter arrived on the scene there was not a fatal exchange between them and the federal force. A sharp protest should be made to the department of justice, which, we may perhaps assume, has not yet decided to abolish the constitutional system of the United States.

Other phases of this raid are not creditable. We highly approve of the spirit of the department's boast, "We get our man," but the reckless tactics adopted in getting Gibson call for correction. A flat adjoining Gibson's was by mistake fired into and gassed. Methods of the police should not be based on the theory that the apprehension of a criminal is more important than the safety of law abiding individuals.

*Editorial*

*Chicago Daily Tribune  
January 10, 1935*

*1-4413*

*2.1*

**7-576-A**

# JURY CENSURES U. S. AGENTS IN GIBSON KILLING

By AUSTIN O'MALLEY

A coroner's jury of world war veterans today took government agents to task for jeopardizing the lives of innocent citizens in shooting down desperate criminals.

While the jurors commended the 16 agents of the department of justice for killing Russell (Rusty) Gibson, Karpis gangster, Tuesday night, they modified their finding by offering severe criticism at the methods employed in the man hunt.

## SUGGEST MORE CAUTION

"We suggest that the agents of the department of justice hereafter use more caution and discretion in apprehending and killing these wanted criminals," their report stated.

"The government men should have more regard for the lives of citizens. From the evidence given at this inquest it is obvious that the lives of many innocent persons were in jeopardy because of the tactics employed by the agents to get their man."

The jurors referred particularly to the occupants of the 48 apartments in the building at 3920 Pine Grove ave., where Gibson was killed, and who had to flee to the street during the shooting. They referred, too, to one man who had been a victim of tear gas bombs which agents had tossed into his apartment by mistake.

## WOULD INFORM CUMMINGS

"We suggest that this recommendation be forwarded to U. S. Atty. Gen. Cummings," the jurors requested.

The inquest, held in the county morgue, was short but dramatic. Mrs. Clara Gibson, 32-year-old widow of the slain gangster, was brought there in custody of federal men to identify the body.

"Sweetheart, why did they do it?" she sobbed as she passed her hand over the face of the dead man—a face perforated with shotgun slugs. Mrs. Gibson then broke down and wept.

## CALLS HUSBAND "GAMBLER"

In answer to questions by Dep. Coroner James Whalen she said that her husband was 35 and a gambler by profession. She was a milliner, she said, unemployed for four

months. She and Gibson had been married for 11 years.

Mrs. Gibson said she had joined her husband at the Pine Grove ave. address a month ago, taking with her a girl named Ruth. At the apartment was a man named "Andy," later identified as Byron Bolton, 38, long sought as the "finger man" for the Capone mob in the St. Valentine's day massacre.

Both the woman, Ruth, and Bolton, are in custody of federal agents. Bolton will be questioned later by Lieut. William Cusack of the detective bureau in an attempt to learn from him further details of the wholesale killing in 1929.

## AGENT DESCRIBES RAID

R. B. Brown, 6805 E. 72d st., a special agent of the bureau of investigation, then took the stand and told how the 16 agents had surrounded the building. He did not witness the shooting, as he was in the front, he said.

Brown said that Gibson had been sought by the government for the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul brewer, and for violation of the Dyer act—transporting stolen autos from one state to the other.

## NAMED AS GEM THIEF

Meantime three jewelry salesmen identified a picture of Gibson at the detective bureau as the man who had robbed them of nearly \$150,000 worth of jewelry in the past year.

Sergt. Claire Alcock of the jewelry detail, said that Gibson had been the "brains" of a gang of jewelry thieves. Louis Sachs, jewelry salesman, pointed out Gibson's picture as that of one of three men who had taken \$40,000 worth of jewelry from him at Randolph st. and Wabash ave. last May.

J. Frudenheim, another salesman, identified Gibson as one of a trio who had robbed him of \$50,000, and Milton Jackson, another salesman, said he had been one of three men who had robbed him of \$50,000 worth of gems.

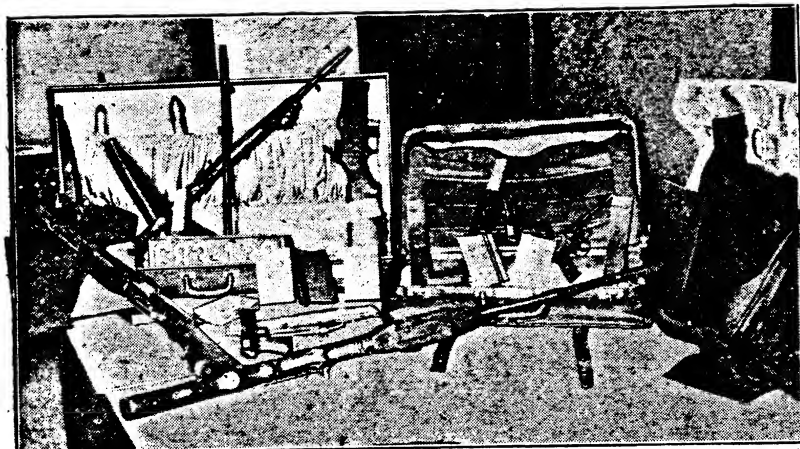
7-576

Chicago Daily Times

JAN 10 1935

- Mr. Nathan.....
- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Baughman.....
- Chief Clerk.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Edwards.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Harbo.....
- Mr. Keith.....
- Mr. Lester.....
- Mr. Quinn.....
- Mr. Tamm.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Carson.....

## A DEAD MAN'S GUNS



(TIMES Photo)

**GIBSON SHOT THROUGH "ARMOR."**—Neither his "bullet-proof" vest nor a miniature arsenal saved Russell Gibson, Karpis

gangster, when federal agents blazed away at him. These munitions were found in his apartment at 3920 Pine Grove ave. —See p. 1.

7-27(1-15)

*Chicago Daily Times*

JAN 10 1935

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Mr. Nathan.....   | ✓ |
| Mr. Tolson.....   | ✓ |
| Mr. Clegg.....    | ✓ |
| Mr. Baughman..    | ✓ |
| Chief Clerk.....  | ✓ |
| Mr. Coffey.....   | ✓ |
| Mr. Edwards.....  | ✓ |
| Mr. Egan.....     | ✓ |
| Mr. Harbo.....    | ✓ |
| Mr. Keith.....    | ✓ |
| Mr. Lester.....   | ✓ |
| Mr. Quinn.....    | ✓ |
| Mr. Schilder..... | ✓ |
| Mr. Tamm.....     | ✓ |
| Mr. Tracy.....    | ✓ |
| Miss Gandy.....   | ✓ |

## A NARROW SQUEAK

During the shooting of Russell Gibson, ex-convict wanted for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, another tragedy, such as the shooting to death of an innocent CCC worker in the futile northern Wisconsin Dillinger hunt, was narrowly averted.

During the raid on the Pine Grove ave. apartment, with government men firing shots and throwing gas bombs, neighbors naturally telephoned to the Chicago police, who arrived at the scene of action with trigger fingers aflutter. It is a wonder they did not let loose at the federal agents, and vice versa.

We want our No. 1 criminals cleaned out. That can be done without taking innocent lives. Before the shooting begins, the federal agents should take common sense precautions against the possibility of officers of the law filling each other with lead.

7-576-A  
Chicago Daily Times  
JAN 10 1935

✓  
SPB  
**SLAIN GIBSON IDENTIFIED**

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Mr. Nathan   |    |
| Mr. Tolson   | ✓  |
| Mr. Clegg    |    |
| Mr. Baughman |    |
| Chief Clerk  |    |
| Mr. Coffey   |    |
| Mr. Edwards  |    |
| Mr. Egan     |    |
| Mr. Harbo    |    |
| Mr. Ladd     | EB |
| Mr. Quinn    |    |
| Mr. Schilder | ✓  |
| Mr. Tamm     |    |
| Mr. Tracy    |    |
| Mr. Carson   |    |

**AS CHIEF OF**

**GEM THEFT RING**

*Chicago American*  
7-576-A JAN 10 1935

## BECAUSE OF GUN—A WIDOW



Deputy Coroner James J. Whalen holds the automatic gun equipped with a silencer which Russell Gibson fired once before federal raiders killed him. Gibson, a jewel thief, was wanted in the Bremer kidnaping in St. Paul.

Clara Gibson, widow of the outlaw, tearfully testifies at the inquest that her mate was a gambler and that they had been married ten or eleven years. After three witnesses were heard a verdict of "justifiable homicide" was returned. (Chicago American photos.)

*Chicago American*  
7-576-A JAN 10 1935

# KILLING IS HELD 'JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE'

A coroner's jury decided today that the killing of Russell Gibson, 32, in a federal raid yesterday at 3820 Pine Grove av. was "justifiable homicide" as police revealed him to be a suspect in numerous big gem thefts.

Sergeants Thomas Alcock and Daniel O'Rourke of the detective bureau jewelry detail said Gibson was sought in connection with gem robberies amounting to nearly \$500,000 in the last year.

Gibson, they said, had been positively identified through pictures by victims in the robberies as the head of the theft ring.

## LINK AID TO MASSACRE.

Police also revealed that one of the "missing links" in the reconstruction of the St. Valentine's Day massacre of seven men in 1929 was believed to have been found in the arrest of Byron Bolton.

Bolton was seized in the raid by federal agents and is held by the government. Police said his picture had been identified as that of one of the Capone "finger men" who kept a vigil on the N. Clark st. garage where the George ("Bugs") Moran gang gathered.

Police files disclosed that Bolton once was chauffeur for James ("Killer") Burke, now serving a life term for murder in Michigan. Burke was often mentioned as one of the actual executioners of the Moran mobsters.

The coroner's inquest at the county morgue was a routine affair with Gibson's widow, Clara, and two government agents who participated in the Pine Grove av. raid as witnesses.

Mrs. Gibson identified her husband's body as it lay on a slab in a room beneath the inquest chamber. She said he was a gambler and that they had been married ten or eleven years.

## CO-OPERATION URGED

Deputy Coroner James J. Whalen congratulated the federal force for its actions in the raid, but expressed the wish that it would co-operate more closely with local police in such matters so as to avoid any chance of a clash by error.

In the Pine Grove av. fracas a police squad nearly opened fire on the government men, not knowing who they were, and innocent tenants of the building were gassed and threatened.

Soon after the inquest, the coroner's office was notified that Gibson's brother, O. M. Gibson of Los Angeles, had telegraphed instructions to the Erspelding mortuary, 4823 Broadway, to prepare the slain man's body for burial and hold it for further orders.

Chief Deputy Coroner Victor Schlaeger appeared at the Department of Justice office in the Bankers' Building. It was reported he asked that the firearms seized in the Pine Grove av. flat be turned over to the coroner. He denied the report.

Meanwhile, government agents were secretly working on another angle of the case—the Edward G. Bremer \$200,000 ransom kidnaping in St. Paul. Gibson was wanted in that city for the kidnaping.

Lieut. William Cusack of the detective bureau disclosed that Bolton had been identified as one of the "massacre" men.

The identification was made through the finding of a letter addressed to "Bryon Bolton, Virden, Ill., in the "lookout" flat across from the garage at 2123 N. Clark st., where the Moran gangsters were shot down.

*Chicago American*  
7-576-A JAN 10 1935

## Stain Outlaw Identified as Gem Holdup Leader

Russell Gibson, alias "Slim Gray," Bremer kidnaping suspect, slain early Wednesday morning by federal agents in his apartment at 3912 Pine Grove avenue, was identified today by Sergts. Thomas Alcock and Dan O'Rourke of jewel detail of the detective bureau as head of a gang of thieves specializing in robbing jewelry salesmen in the downtown district of Chicago.

Victims of three recent jewel robberies had identified his picture as that of the man who robbed them, or had given descriptions that tallied with the photograph.

A coroner's jury today returned a verdict that Gibson came to his death as result of justifiable homicide on the part of federal agents.

### Jury Commends Operatives.

The jury commended the federal operatives for their bravery, but added a word of caution:

"When sixteen federal agents go out armed with high-powered weapons to capture a suspect, it is recommended that they observe reasonable discretion and proper caution in order to prevent the killing or wounding or maiming of innocent citizens and law-abiding occupants of the buildings occupied by suspects."

The agents shot through the windows of neighboring apartments and flooded them with tear gas in their brief battle with Gibson.

Mrs. Clara Gibson, widow of the gangster, at the inquest today identified her husband as a gambler. She said the federal agents rang the bell of their apartment and called a warning up the speaking tube telling the occupants that the flat was surrounded and for them to go downstairs one at a time with their hands in the air.

### Kissed Wife "Good-By."

"Russell kissed me good-by," she said, "and told me to go down with Ruth and Andy (Byron Bolton, alias Monte Carter). 'I'll be seein' you,' he said, and then went to the back, while we went down the front stairs. We had hardly got down before we heard shots."

She said she had been married to

Gibson for twelve years. The other occupants of the flat, she said, she knew merely as "Ruth" and "Andy." She did not know their last names.

R. D. Brown, special agent of the department of investigation, testified that the department had had the flat under surveillance for some time and that late Monday night he and fifteen other agents surrounded the building. They saw Gibson and his wife enter and twenty minutes later he rang the

bell and shouted the warning up the speaking tube.

### Makes Shooting Threat.

After repeating three times the order for them to come down, he said he added:

"If you don't come down we'll come up shooting."

Other agents testified that Gibson had fired three shots from a Browning automatic rifle before it jammed and that he had a revolver in his hand when he was shot.

The Chicago police, Sergts. Alcock and O'Rourke revealed, had twice missed capturing Gibson by slender margins. On one occasion they raided a flat at 626 Waveland avenue just a few minutes after he had left, and on another occasion they narrowly missed him in a raid on a resort at Eagle River, Wis.

*Chicago Daily News*  
JAN 10 1935

7-57-A

# Gangster's Wife at Inquest



Mrs. Clara Gibson as she testified today at the inquest into the death of her gangster husband, Russell Gibson, slain by federal agents. The widow told how Gibson, to whom she had been wed twelve years, kissed her good-by and then went to his death as he attempted to shoot his way out of their ambushed apartment. Testimony of police linked Gibson with recent wholesale jewelry robberies here. (By a staff photographer.)

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Mr. Nathan   | ✓  |
| Mr. Tolson   | ✓  |
| Mr. Clegg    |    |
| Mr. Baughman |    |
| Chief Clerk  |    |
| Mr. Coffey   |    |
| Mr. Edwards  |    |
| Mr. Egan     |    |
| Mr. Harbo    |    |
| Mr. Ke       |    |
| Mr. Lester   | EB |
| Mr. Quinn    |    |
| Mr. Nease    |    |
| Mr. Tracy    | ✓  |
| Miss Gandy   |    |

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JAN 10 1935  
CHICAGO  
7-576-A

Chicago Daily News

JAN 10 1935

Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Baughman.....  
 Chief Clerk.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Edwards.....  
 Mr. Egan.....  
 Mr. Harbo.....  
 Mr. Keith.....  
 Mr. Lester.....  
 Mr. Quinn.....  
 Mr. Schuler.....  
 Mr. Tamm.....  
 Mr. Tracy.....  
 Miss Gandy.....



ADD GIBSON, CHICAGO

CHICAGO POLICE SAID AFTER VIEWING GIBSON'S BODY THAT HE IS THE MAN  
 THEY KNEW AS GRAY AND WHO WAS IDENTIFIED BY LEWIS SACHS OF  
 NEW YORK AS ONE OF THREE MEN WHO ROBBED HIM OF \$40,000 IN JEWELS  
 IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO.

HE ALSO WAS SOUGHT FOR QUESTIONING IN THE ROBBERIES OF HILTON  
 JACKSON, AND J. FREUDENHEIM OF NEW YORK, EACH OF WHOM LOST  
 \$50,000 IN JEWELS.

1/10--R152P JS

10

7-576-A

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Mr. Nathan.....   |
| Mr. Tolson.....   |
| Mr. Clegg.....    |
| Mr. Baughman..... |
| Chief Clerk.....  |
| Mr. Coffey.....   |
| Mr. Edwards.....  |
| Mr. Egan.....     |
| Mr. Harbo.....    |
| Mr. Keith.....    |
| Mr. Lester.....   |
| Mr. Quinn.....    |
| Mr. Schilder..... |
| Mr. Tamm.....     |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |

CHICAGO--THE SLAYING OF RUSSELL GIBSON, TRAPPED IN AN  
 APARTMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGENTS TUESDAY NIGHT, WAS  
 "JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE," A CORONER'S JURY RULED TODAY AFTER HIS WIFE  
 HAD TEARFULLY IDENTIFIED HIS BODY AT THE COUNTY MORGUE.

1/10--R1213P JE

7-576-A

CHV 2025



|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan   | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson   | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg    | ..... |
| Mr. Baughman | ..... |
| Chief Clerk  | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey   | ..... |
| Mr. Edwards  | ..... |
| Mr. Egan     | ..... |
| Mr. Harbo    | ..... |
| Mr. Keith    | ..... |
| Mr. Lester   | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn    | ..... |
| Mr. Schilder | ..... |
| Mr. Tamm     | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy    | ..... |
| Miss Gandy   | ..... |

RECEIVED

JAN 10 1935

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CHICAGO--CHICAGO POLICE TODAY LINKED THE SLAIN RUSSELL GIBSON WITH  
A GANG OF JEWEL ROBBERS CHARGED WITH THEFTS AMOUNTING TO \$140,000.  
GIBSON, KILLED BY FEDERAL AGENTS AS A MEMBER OF THE BARKER-KARPIS  
KIDNAP GANG, WAS IDENTIFIED BY POLICE AS ROY (SLIM) GRAY WHO THEY  
BELIEVE TOOK PART IN ROBBERIES OF THREE NEW YORK JEWELRY SALESMEN HERE.  
1/10 ON125P. SNJB

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7-576-A



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

**WIDOW OF SLAIN GUNMAN QUIZZED AT INQUEST.**

Mrs. Clara Gibson, widow of Russell Gibson, who was slain by federal agents in flat, shown at the inquest yesterday in the county morgue.

(Story on page 15.)

*Chicago Tribune*

JAN 11 1935

# POLICE ASK U. S. FOR CUSTODY OF 3 GIBSON PALS

## Outlaw's Widow Testifies at Inquest.

(Picture on back page.)

Chief of Detectives John L. Sullivan said last night he would ask government agents for the custody of the three prisoners, two women and a man, taken in the apartment where Russell Gibson, alias Glen Gary, alleged kidnaper, was killed Tuesday night by government men.

At an inquest yesterday a verdict of justifiable homicide was returned in the death of Gibson, together with commendation of the agents and a recommendation that in future they take greater precautions to insure the safety of innocent persons.

Those wanted for questioning by Chief Sullivan are Byron Bolton, Ruth Hile, said to be from Cincinnati, and Mrs. Clara Gibson, widow of the slain man who was suspected of a part in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward Bremer, St. Paul brewer. These three walked down the front stairs of the apartment at 3920 Pine Grove avenue at the command of the federal operatives. Gibson was shot to death in a battle with the agents when he sought to escape down the rear stairs.

### Widow Testifies at Inquest.

At the inquest Mrs. Gibson said her husband was a gambler and she had only gone to the Pine Grove avenue apartment with him the day before the shooting, meeting for the first time Ruth and "Andy," the name used by Bolton.

She admitted there were many weapons in the apartment and said she didn't know who owned them. When the agents called up through the speaking tube and demanded the surrender of all in the apartment, Mrs. Gibson said, her husband kissed her and told her and the others to go.

## U. S. Agents at Gibson Inquest



R. J. ABBATICCO.  
[TRIBUNE Photo.]



R. D. BROWN.  
[TRIBUNE Photo.]

Agents R. D. Brown and R. J. Abbaticco testified to killing Gibson, who was wearing a bullet proof vest and who fired at least three shots from a rifle at them. They shot him through the bullet proof vest with bullets from their high powered rifles.

### Hunted as Jewel Robber.

Chief Sullivan said Gibson had been sought for some time as the leader of a band of jewel robbers. In this search one of the victims of a jewel robbery, Louis Sachs, who lost \$40,000 in diamonds, identified a picture of Gibson and police obtained trace of him through a license plate removed from his car.

They sought to trap him in an apartment at 626 Waveland avenue and while they were maintaining a watch on the apartment government men raided it and Gibson, who was not at home at the time, never went back, Chief Sullivan said. The chief wants several other robbery victims to view the body of the slain outlaw.

He said he wants to question Bolton about the St. Valentine's day massacre six years ago. A man of the same name had rented an apartment across the street from the garage where seven of George "Bugs" Moran's gang were killed by rival gangsters.

Mr. Nathan.....  
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Mr. Harbo.....  
Mr. Keith.....  
Mr. Lester.....  
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Mr. Schilder.....  
Mr. Tamm.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Miss Gandy.....

Chicago Tribune  
7-576-A JAN 11 1935 FT

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**IT FAILED.—**  
 Dep. Coroner  
 Whalen with  
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 gun used by  
 Russell Gibson  
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12-7-35

*Chicago Daily Times*

JAN 11 1935

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| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |



Associated Press Wirephoto.  
**CHICAGO.**—Mrs. Clara Gibson, widow of Russell Gibson, gangster slain by Federal agents, shown yesterday at an inquest for her husband.

*Washington  
 Post  
 1/12/35*

*7-576-A*

# WOMAN SLAIN HOLDING GUN IN GRASP

'Ma' Barker, 65, Son Fred Shot  
By U. S. Agents After  
Five-Hour Battle

Fred Barker, member of the Barker-Karpis kidnap gang, and his aged mother, Mrs. Kate "Ma" Barker were shot to death by Department of Justice agents today in a gun battle at Oclawaha, Fla., which raged for five hours. Over 4,000 shots were exchanged.

Word of the battle was flashed to Department of Justice headquarters here after the agents broke into the house to find the mother dead on the floor, lying in a pool of blood and still gripping a machine gun.

Close by was the body of her son, clutching in death an automatic rifle.

## No Agents Hurt

None of the 15 Federal agents was wounded.

The slain mother and son were being sought in connection with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul resident, last year.

Arthur Barker, son and brother of the slain pair, has been definitely identified by Federal agents as one of the gang which kidnaped Mr. Bremer, who was released three weeks later following payment of \$200,000 ransom.

Federal agents, who have been trailing the mother and son, last night located them in an isolated house on the outskirts of the little Florida town.

The sheriff and police were notified and blocked all roads leading to the house, while Federal agents surrounded the place. The local officers took no part in the gun battle.

At 7 a. m. today the agents started to close in and were met with a blast of machine gun fire. They sought cover and returned the fire. For the next five hours the battle raged.

The trapped pair seemed to have an unlimited supply of weapons and ammunition, and the agents were unable to get close enough to throw in tear gas bombs.

About noon, the fire slackened and then came silence. Cautiously the agents advanced, and as there was no further fire from the house crashed in the place.

## Shambles Inside

The place inside was a shambles, the deadly concentrated fire of the 15 agents having almost torn the house to pieces.

On the floor was the body of the plump, 65-year-old machine gunning mother, pierced by half a dozen bullets.

Close beside her was the body of her son, while the floor was strewn with empty cartridges, ejected from the high powered weapons with which they had put up such a strenuous resistance.

Arthur Barker and Karpis are still at liberty.



MRS. KATE BARKER

## FRED BARKER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE photo of the member of the Barker-Karpis kidnap gang who was killed in a protracted gun battle with Federal agents today in Florida. His mother, Mrs. Kate Barker, also was slain. In her dead fingers was clutched a machine gun.

Washington Times 1-16-35

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| Mr. Nathan .....   |
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| Mr. Schilder ..... |
| Mr. Tamm .....     |
| Mr. Tracy .....    |
| Miss Gandy .....   |

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Mr. Nathan  
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Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Baughman

Chief Clerk  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn

**Ma Barker  
Kills Mother  
And Outlaw**

# 'MA' BARKER KILLED IN GUN FIGHT

Woman, 65, and Her Outlaw  
Son Slain in Battle with  
U. S. Agents in Florida

Fred Barker, member of the Barker-Karpis kidnap gang, and his aged mother, Mrs. Kate Barker, were shot to death by Department of Justice agents today in a gun battle at Ocala, Fla., which raged for five hours. Over 4,000 shots were exchanged.

Word of the battle was flashed to Department of Justice headquarters here after the agents broke into the house to find the mother dead on the floor, lying in a pool of blood and still gripping a machine gun.

Close by was the body of her son, clutching in death an automatic rifle.

No Agents Hurt  
None of the 14 Federal agents was wounded.

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The sheriff and police were notified and blocked all roads leading to the house, while Federal agents surrounded the place. The local officers took no part in the gun battle.

At 7 a. m. today the agents



MRS. KATE BARKER

FRED BARKER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE photo of the member of the Barker-Karpis kidnap gang who was killed in protracted gun battle with Federal agents today in Florida. His mother, Mrs. Kate Barker, also was slain. Her dead figure was slumped a machine gun.

started to close in and were met with a blast of machine gun fire. They sought cover and returned the fire. For the next five hours the battle raged.

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Close beside her was the body of her son, while the floor strewn with empty cartridges ejected from the high power weapons with which they had up such a strenuous resistance.

Arthur Barker and Karpis still at liberty.

JAN 16 1935

WASH. STAR

7-576-A

LB

## Witness Tells of Fight That Took Lives of 2

Neighbor Woman Tells of Being  
Awakened by Bullets Crashing  
Thru Her Bedroom

(Note: Following is an eye-witness account of the bloody gun battle as told by a next-door neighbor of Fred Barker and his notorious gang.)

By MRS. A. T. WESTBERRY

OCKLAWAHA, Fla.—My daughter Wilma, and I were awakened this morning by bullets crashing thru the walls of our bedroom.

We were sleeping in twin beds. A bullet hit the ~~window~~ between our beds and pieces of glass showered down upon us.

We didn't know what was hap-

(Continued on Page 28)

pening, but we were scared to death. We ran into a closet and hid there for half an hour. Then we jumped out a window on the opposite side of the house than that from where the bullets seemed to be coming.

As we came out, it seemed that some men in the road, who we later found to be Federal officers, were shooting right at us. We told them who we were and ran out of the range of the fire.

I'm going to see my lawyer about those officers shooting at us.

I thought those four people who moved in next door to us last November were rich folks.

They watched us closely all the time. We're poor and work for a living and they acted just like rich people trying to see how poor people lived.

After the two men and two women moved into the big house next to ours, there was a lot of people coming and going all the time. A big bunch came in several days ago and left Sunday.

Mr. Nathan.....  
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Mr. Tamm.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Miss Gandy.....

WASH. NEWS

JAN 16 1935

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# Outlaw and Mother Killed After Long Machine-Gun Battle

## Outlaws Slain



Here are Fred Barker and his mother, Kate, notorious outlaws, who were killed today by Federal agents in Florida.

## Fred and Kate Barker Are Slain by Federal Agents in Florida

By United Press  
OCELAWAHA, Fla.—Fred Barker, notorious Mid-West desperado, and his mother were killed in a machine gun battle with Federal agents and Marion County officers here today.

A man known locally as "Campbell" and another woman who had occupied a large frame house at this resort village with the Barkers apparently were away at the time of the raid. No trace was found of them.

### HOUSE SURROUNDED

The squad of 12 Justice Department agents, in company with 14 Marion County officers from Ocala, surrounded the house to where Barker had been traced about 6:45 a. m. today.

Their demands that the occupants surrender were met with machine gun fire, returned by the officers. The battle raged intermittently for more than five hours, with an estimated 4000 shots exchanged.

(Continued on Page 28)

## Outlaw and Mother Slain in Gun Battle

(Continued From Page 2)

changed. None of the officers was hurt.

Shortly after noon the Federal agents shot tear gas into the house and invaded it to find Barker and his mother dead. Deputy Sheriff J. Williams, who entered with the first party, said both bodies were lying on the second floor of the house. Barker lay face down. His mother died with a machine gun by her side.

### CORONER'S JURY

A coroner's jury, summoned immediately after the shooting by County Judge L. E. Futch, returned a verdict of justifiable homicide in the deaths of Barker and his mother.

The Justice Department agents had brought with them photographs of Barker and other members of the Midwest gang, sought in connection with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, and other crimes.

The photographs were identified by citizens as those of men and women seen about the house rented last November under the name of J. C. Blackburn.

Alvin Karpis, widely hunted desperado, was believed to have been among the numerous persons who had visited the house during the last few weeks.

Barker and the man known as Campbell, who was with him most of the time, did considerable hunting and fishing and gave residents the impression of being "idle rich."

E. J. Connelly, special agent of the Justice Department, with headquarters at Cincinnati and especially assigned to the Bremer kidnaping case, led the squad of 12 Federal officers in the raid.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
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Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

WASH. NEWS

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**Bremer Kidnaped Here  
Year Ago Thursday; Was  
Released February 8 After  
Paying Ransom.**

# **BARKER AND KARPIS CALLED ABDUCTORS**

On the eve of the first anniversary of the abduction of Edward G. Bremer, president of the Commercial State bank, Federal officers engaged in a machine gun battle with the kidnaping gang in Florida and killed one man and a woman.

The two slain were Fred Barker and his mother, "Ma" Barker, both former St. Paul underworld characters.

Mr. Bremer was taken from his automobile January 17, 1934, shortly after he had taken his daughter to the Summit grade school in St. Paul.

Despite the efforts of all peace officers in the Northwest his hideaway was not discovered and he was not released until February 8 when he was freed in Rochester and made his way home by bus.

The kidnapers held him for \$200,000 ransom. They beat him about the head and body when the banker struggled to free himself from the gang. The amount of ransom paid has never been disclosed.

Arthur (Doc) Barker and Alvin Karpis, former St. Paul underworld characters, have been named by the Department of Justice operatives as the leaders in the gang.

R. C. Coulter, acting chief of the St. Paul Federal office in the absence of D. M. Ladd, today declined to comment on reports of the gunfight.

The man identified in the Associated Press dispatches as T. C. Blackburn is believed here to have used

the alias of Harry Campbell. He is wanted as a bank robber.

He is said here to have been associated with Barker and Karpis. Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis long have been two of the country's most sought-after gangsters, with several of their major alleged crimes having been perpetrated in and near St. Paul.

With Fred's brother, Arthur, known as "Doc," they have been sought by authorities from one end of the country to the other for the kidnaping of Bremer. St. Paul banker. They also were suspected in the abduction of William Hamm, St. Paul brewer.

Fred Barker and Karpis have been wanted since 1932 for the murder of Arthur W. Dunlap of West St. Paul, the Barkers' stepfather, slain in April of that year near Webster, Wis. Prior to the murder, the two gangsters are said to have lived in a house on South Robert street.

Last summer, Karpis was reported to be living in the vicinity of White Bear Lake, and to have staged a series of holdups in and around St. Paul.

Another crime for which Fred Barker and Karpis have been sought is the murder of a sheriff at West Plains, Mo.

They were known as associates of George (Machine Gun) Kelly, now serving a life term for kidnaping; Frank Nash, gangster killed in the Kansas City Union depot massacre; and Verne Miller, notorious bandit, so were identified at various times with the Dillinger gang.

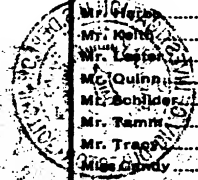
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Dispatch  
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 Miss Gandy.....



# GEHAN JUBILANT

Washington Bureau  
 of the Dispatch  
 Washington, Jan. 16.—Com-  
 gratulations on the successful  
 outcome of the Florida battle  
 between Justice agents and  
 Fred Barker were extended to  
 Attorney General Cummings  
 here this afternoon by Mayor  
 Mark Gehan of St. Paul.

Gehan and John L. Connal-  
 ly, St. Paul city attorney, ar-  
 rived for a conference with  
 Cummings a few moments be-  
 fore Florida operatives wired  
 Washington the identification of  
 the gangsters.

The St. Paul officials were to  
 confer this afternoon with  
 Justice officers on St. Paul  
 crime problems. Gehan said  
 the attorney general had ex-  
 tended an offer of complete  
 co-operation with city officials  
 in war on local gangsters.  
 Earlier this morning Gehan and  
 Connally conferred with Harry  
 Hopkins, FERA chief, on plans  
 for meeting St. Paul's relief  
 problems.

*St Paul  
 Dispatch  
 1/16/35*

7-576-FF

# MACHINE GUN IS FOUND IN HAND OF DEAD WOMAN WITH BREMER SUSPECT ALSO SLAIN

**Fred Barker's Hideout  
In Florida Tracked  
And 4,000 Shots Are  
Fired In Battle.**

By United Press.  
OKLAWAHA, Fla., Jan. 16.—Federal agents today shot and killed Fred Barker, notorious outlaw, and his elderly, equally notorious mother, Mrs. Kate Barker of Tulsa, Okla., in a long-drawn-out machine-gun battle at a frame house near here. There were no other casualties.

Mrs. Barker had engaged in the fight.

She had a machine gun in her hands. Part of the drum of bullets had been used. The coroner will hold an inquest this afternoon.

Barker was suspected of complicity on the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul brewer.

The squad of 10 department of justice agents, headed by E. J. Connelley, raided the house about 6:45 a. m., in company with a squad of sheriff's officers from Okla.

"We are department of justice men; come on out," challenged one of the officers.

Shooting started from the house. The officers returned the fire, scattering to cover. Machine guns were used on both sides. Several hundred shots were exchanged within a space of 15 minutes.

The shooting died down only to flare up into it. After an hour's quiet, shortly after noon, the federal agents began closing in on the house and filled it with tear gas.

Barker is a brother of the notorious Arthur R. (Doc) Barker, who with Alvin Karpis, has led one of the most notorious gangs of kidnapers and bank robbers in the mid-west. They are regarded by federal agents as the most dangerous group of criminals at large. Government operatives believed Arthur Barker and Karpis might be in the vicinity of the battle.

When the officers crashed in, they found Barker and his mother dead.

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 6.)

## Shot In Florida



Erased from the field of "wanted" criminals today is FRED BARKER, brother of Arthur (Doc) Barker, who with Alvin Karpis kidnaped Edward G. Bremer a year ago this month. Fred was one of the outlaws slain in today's shooting affray with federal agents in Florida.

## Kidnap Hunt Nears Climax

**Feds Push Search For  
Arthur Barker, Karpis.**

The long, long trail followed by the federal government in its relentless search for the kidnapers of William Hamm, Jr., St. Paul brewer and financier, and Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, neared its end today when department of justice agents and outlaws staged a bloody battle at Oklawaha, Fla.

With Fred Barker and his mother, Mrs. Kate Barker, slain, the government pressed its search for Arthur

**Hunt For K apes  
Is Nearing Climax**  
(Doc) Barker and Alvin Karpis, who were the actual leaders of the Karpis-Barker gang. Reports today were that the federal agents were in possession of information as to the approximate whereabouts of these two and of other members of the gang. Regarded by federal agents and police throughout the nation as second only to the former Dillinger gang in daring and activity, the mob has been sought for two years over a territory extending from St. Paul to Oklahoma and Florida.

Missouri Sheriff Slain.

In December, 1931, the gang killed Sheriff C. R. Kelly at White Plains, Mo.

The gang moved into St. Paul early in 1932, teaming up with a man known locally as George E. Anderson. He was Fred Barker's father-in-law. Anderson was shot to death in gangster ride fashion April 28, 1932, near Webster, Wis. Later he was identified as Arthur W. Dunlap, Sr., of West Plains, Mo.

William Hamm, Jr., wealthy St. Paul brewer, was kidnaped June 16, 1933, while the Karpis-Barker gang was hiding out in St. Paul. Underworld gossip linked them with the snatching despite the later arrest and unsuccessful trial of Roger Touhy and his Chicago mobsters. Immediately after the kidnaping they fled the city following payment of \$100,000 ransom.

Kidnaping Charged To Gang.

Bremer was kidnaped Jan. 17, 1934, and released 21 days later after \$200,000 ransom had been paid. Fingerprints of Arthur Barker and Karpis were found on a discarded gasoline can and on a flashlight in a car in which the snatchers rode when Walter Midgee, St. Paul contractor and intermediary, paid the money.

Shortly after that Fred Barker and Karpis were named by Kansas City police as the slayers of John Lanza, power in the Italian section of that city.

The last known appearance of the gang was at Cleveland, O., Sept. 6, when they fled a few minutes ahead of police following arrest there of Mrs. Harry Sawyer, wife of a St. Paul former bootlegger and fence.

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| Mr. Glavin.....   |
| Mr. Ladd.....     |
| Mr. Nichols.....  |
| Mr. Rosen.....    |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |

*St Paul  
Daily News  
1/14/35*

7-576-A

# Pair Trapped in Lake Mansion in Florida Open Fire on Agents



Fred Barker (top) and his mother, "Ma" Barker, were slain today in Florida in a gunfight with Federal agents. They were part of the gang that was wanted for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker. In the center is Alvin G. Karpis, who is believed to have been with the Barkers shortly before the battle. The man in the lower picture is T. C. Blackburn, who is alleged to have rented the Florida house in which the gang was surrounded. All are former St. Paul underworld characters.

**Fifteen U. S. Officers, Seeking Bremer Kidnapers, Pour 1,500 Rounds Into Rented Mansion.**

## 'MA' BARKER CALLED BANDIT GANG BRAINS

(Copyright, 1935, by the Associated Press.)  
Oklawaha, Fla., Jan. 16.

—(P)—Fred Barker, long sought for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, and his mother, "Ma" Barker, were shot to death today by department of justice agents after a furious six-hour machine gun battle.

Just after the battle ended, the Federal agents said two men and a woman had been killed, but a later check disclosed that only the Barkers were slain. Apparently, they were the only occupants of the house.

After a blazing battle with machine guns the agents resorted to tear gas.

The agents suffered no known casualties.

The pair barricaded themselves in a fine summer home on the bank of Lake Weir they had rented two months ago.

**House Surrounded.**  
This morning the agents, fifteen of them, surrounded the place and ordered the occupants to surrender.

There was a blaze of fire from a machine gun in answer. The agents retired and set up their own machine guns and retaliated. A blazing battle ensued and continued, except for occasional lulls, until

1 o'clock. The agents resorted to tear gas in an effort to smoke out their quarry.

A Negro cook employed in the house, rented under the name of T. C. Blackburn, was sent inside by the agents.

In a moment he returned with the cryptic news:

"They are all dead."

The firing started about 7 A. M. today, when the agents surrounded the beautiful summer house of Carson Bradford, president of the Biscayne Kennel club at Miami, who had rented it two months ago.

Residents of the community had withdrawn to a safe distance to listen to the battle.

There is only one telephone in the little summer resort village.

Shortly after noon one of the officers made a call to an Orlando undertaker.

"Bring the wagon, we have two dead men for you."

Immediately a coroner's inquest was called and the agents kept out all except eye-witnesses.

The dead woman was about 60 years old and the man between 30 and 35.

Mrs. H. E. Westberry, who has a summer cottage across the street from that occupied by the gangsters, told a graphic story of narrowly escaping death in the exchange of blazing machine guns.

**Home in Line of Fire.**  
Her home was directly in the line of fire from where the bandits had set up a machine gun. A number of bullets tore through her home and she was forced to seclude herself in the bathroom to escape being shot down.

As the battle waxed more furious she decided to make a break for safety. She dashed out of the back door and heard what she believed to be a command from a

(Please Turn to Page 2, Col. 3.)

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
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Chief Clerk  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

St Paul  
Dispatch  
1/16/35

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Department of Justice agent to halt she kept going.

Several shots fanned her head she declared, as she kept putting distance between herself and the battle.

The agents said they had fired 1,500 rounds of ammunition into the house.

Neighbors said they knew little of the "Blackburns" except that they had a great deal of company, mostly late at night.

Only Sunday a couple, known to neighbors as "Mr. and Mrs. Summers," left for the north, where they were understood to live. The Summers had been visitors at the house for several weeks.

This ordinarily quiet little resort village, almost on the edge of the Ocala national forest, experienced its greatest excitement. More than 200 cars were parked about the beautiful lake, a number of summer residents keeping to their cottages during the winter.

As the battle blazed many fled to save distances. The sound of machine gun, shotgun and tear gas gun fire echoed through the trees.

News of the ambushade traveled rapidly and several hundred persons, more curious than cautious, flocked to the village. Newspaper men and cameramen from the surrounding cities sped to the scene to tell the story to the outside world.

Oklawaha is an isolated spot with only one telephone, and soon a line was formed to that by those anxious to get word out.

#### MANSION WAS RENTED TWO MONTHS AGO.

Miami, Jan. 16.—(P)—Joe Adams, an associate of Carson Bradford's, said Bradford's home on Lake Weir was rented two months ago by a man who gave his name as J. C. Blackburn.

Adams is general manager of the Biscayne Kennel club at Miami Beach, of which Bradford is president. Adams also is manager of El Comodoro hotel here.

Carson said he had never seen the tenants of the house, saying the rental transaction was made about two months ago by Adams.

Adams said a man and a woman registered at the El Comodoro hotel and said they were interested in renting Carson's home on Lake Weir. Adams said the man told him the woman was his mother.

Rental prices were talked over. Adams said, and the couple left the hotel saying they wanted to look over the house again. Shortly afterward, Adams said, they rented the house.

Adams said the man appeared to be about 40 years old and the woman about 60.

He said the woman appeared to be "a nice old lady" and that he had sent flowers up to her room. He seldom saw the man while he was here, Adams said.

#### MA BARKER DIES WITH MACHINE GUN IN HANDS.

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—The Department of Justice identified those killed today by federal agents in a machine gun battle at Oklawaha, Fla., as the outlaw, Fred Barker, and his mother, known as "Ma."

Both were wanted for the abduction of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, a year ago Thursday. The reports to the Department from the battleground said the two Barkers were the only ones who took part in the encounter with the federal agents.

None of the fifteen federal agents who surrounded the house in Oklawaha was killed or injured.

When "Ma" Barker fell, the Department said, she was holding a machine gun in her hand and part of the drum of cartridges had been exhausted.

#### \$200,000 Ransom Paid.

Bremer was kidnaped on January 17, 1934. Taken from St. Paul, he was released on February 7 near Rochester, Minn., after the payment of \$200,000 ransom.

At that time the Department of Justice named Arthur (Doc) Barker, believed to be a relative of today's casualties, and Alvin Karpis as those responsible for the kidnaping. The Barker-Karpis gang has been described as the last of the free-running mobs to be at large in the United States.

Department of Justice guns have practically obliterated the Dillinger and "Pretty Boy" Floyd gangs.

"Ma" Barker has been mentioned as the brains of the group and was said to have directed their activities in a number of bank robberies throughout the Middle West.

The Barkers' home, is in Oklawaha.

Machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, revolvers and tear gas bombs all were brought into play.

#### May Be Hamm Kidnapers.

Although named principally as the abductors of Bremer, Justice officials let it be known that inquiries would be made to determine whether the gang had been responsible for the kidnaping of William Hamm, also of St. Paul. Ransom of \$100,000 was paid for Hamm's release.

Members of the notorious Touhy gang of Chicago were arrested, tried and acquitted of this kidnaping.

The announcement regarding today's battle was made after an hour's conference between Attorney General Cummings, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the division of investigation; Assistant Attorney William Stanley and other officers of the department.

After the announcement the department said Fred Barker, killed in the battle, was a brother of Arthur Barker. It was understood Arthur had been a more prominent figure in the activities of the group than had Fred.

The attack on the Florida headquarters of the gang was made after weeks of search throughout the state. Whether any other members of the gang were in the locality was under investigation.

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan   | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson   | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg    | ..... |
| Mr. Baughman | ..... |
| Chief Clerk  | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey   | ..... |
| Mr. Edwards  | ..... |
| Mr. Egan     | ..... |
| Mr. Harbo    | ..... |
| Mr. Keith    | ..... |
| Mr. Lester   | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn    | ..... |
| Mr. Schilder | ..... |
| Mr. Tamm     | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy    | ..... |
| Miss Gandy   | ..... |

KANSAS CITY JOURNAL POST

January 16, 1935.

## MOTHER IS KILLED BESIDE FRED BARKER

**Bremer Kidnap Suspect  
and Parent Wield Ma-  
chine Guns.**

By United Press.

OKLAWAHA, FLA., Jan. 16.—Federal agents and Marion county, Fla., officers Wednesday shot and killed Fred Barker, notorious outlaw, and his elderly, equally notorious mother, in a long drawn out machine gun battle at a frame house here. There were no other casualties.

A man known locally as "Campbell" and another woman who had occupied the house with the Barkers, were away at the time of the raid. No trace was found of them.

Barker was suspected of complicity in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul brewer.

The squad of ten department of justice agents, headed by E. J. Connelley, raided the house about 6:45 o'clock Wednesday morning in company with a squad of sheriff's officers from Ocala.

"We are department of justice men, come on out," challenged one of the officers.

Threw Tear Gas Bombs.  
Shooting started from the house. The officers returned the fire, and



Fred Barker, notorious outlaw, who, with his mother, was slain in a gun battle with federal

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Baughman.....  
Chief Clerk.....  
Mr. Coffey.....  
Mr. Edwards.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
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Mr. Keith.....  
Mr. Lester.....  
Mr. Quinn.....  
Mr. Schilder.....  
Mr. Tamm.....  
Mr. Tracy.....

slain in a gun battle with federal and state police at Oklawaha, Fla. Barker was sought in connection with the Edward Bremer kidnapping and the murder of a West Plains, Mo., sheriff.

7-570

#### Throw Tear Gas Bombs.

Shooting started from the house. The officers returned the fire, scurrying to cover. Machine guns were used on both sides. Several hundred shots were exchanged within a space of fifteen minutes.

The shooting died down only to flare up intermittently. After an hour's quiet, shortly after noon, the federal agents began closing in on the house and filled it with tear gas.

When the officers crashed in they found Barker and his mother dead. Barker rented the house in November under the name of J. C. Blackburn from Carson Bradford, president of the Hialeah Kennel club at Miami. It is a large 2-story white frame house near a lake at this resort village.

"Blackburn" was accompanied by a woman. They had spent their time here hunting and fishing and became known as good spenders. Several visitors went to the house from time to time. Among them was believed to have been Alvin Karpis, widely hunted middle west desperado.

#### Had Many Visitors.

A large party of visitors went to the house several days ago. Two of these left Sunday night. Officers then were not sure just how many were in the house when they raided it Wednesday.

The department of justice men had shown photographs of the men they were hunting to local residents

Turn to Page 2, Column 2.

Continued from Page 1.

who identified them as occupants of the raided house.

None of the federal agents was hurt by the bullets fired from the machine guns of Barker and his mother. When the agents burst into the house they found Barker dead and "Ma" Barker's body nearby with a machine gun in her hands.

#### Brother of "Doc."

Barker is a brother of the notorious Arthur R. (Doc) Barker, who with Alvin Karpis has led one of the most notorious gangs of kidnapers and bank robbers in the Middle West. They are regarded by federal agents as the most dangerous group of criminals at large. Government operatives believed Arthur Barker and Karpis might be in the vicinity of the battle.

Mrs. Barker's name was Kate. The justice department had no record of her age, but judging from pictures officials believed she was about 65. Latest pictures showed her with coal black hair, apparently dyed. Fred Barker was about 35.

Fred Barker Named

was a defendant, was identified as the leader of a gang of five bandits that looted a bank at Elixby, Ok.

The trail of the gangsters faded into the rugged Cookson hills country of eastern Oklahoma, hair of "Pretty Boy" Floyd. On June 16, 1933, when William Hamm, Jr., wealthy St. Paul brewer, was kidnaped, officers found that Karpis and Barkers were hiding in the Twin Cities. With them was Vernon E. Sankley, the kidnaper of Charles Boettcher of Denver. The hideout was raided, but the gangsters had left.

...department had no record of her age, but judging from pictures officials believed she was about 65. Latest pictures showed her with coal black hair, apparently dyed. Fred Barker was about 24.

## Fred Barker Named as Sheriff's Slayer Near West Plains

By United Press.

Fred Barker, slain in a battle with federal agents in Florida Wednesday, was one of the few remaining southwestern and middle western outlaws whose criminal record included alleged murder, kidnaping, robbery and lesser crimes.

Police from Oklahoma to Canada regarded Barker second only to the fallen John Dillinger and Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd as a ruthless desperado. His sphere of alleged crimes encompassed numerous robberies in Oklahoma, murder in Missouri and kidnaping in St. Paul.

Barker began his criminal career several years ago as a bootlegger in Tulsa. Three years ago he was named as a suspect in several major crimes in the Southwest. He had escaped in 1931 from the Kansas state penitentiary at Lansing, where he was serving a sentence for burglary. He joined with his brother, Arthur (Doc) Barker and Alvin Karpis. (Barker and Karpis were wanted for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer of St. Paul.)

In December of 1931 Sheriff C. R. Kelly, seeking bank robbers near West Plains, Mo., was slain by gangsters later identified as Barker and Karpis. Early in 1932 the gangsters moved to St. Paul, where they lived at the residence of George E. Anderson, later identified as Arthur W. Dunlap, sr., of West Plains. Dunlap was said to have been Barker's father-in-law. Later that year Dunlap's body was found in a ditch near Webster, Wis. He had been shot to death. Often believed the gangsters had killed him because of his possible knowledge of the West Plains slaying.

The Barkers and Karpis apparently fled from St. Paul, as no trace of them was found in that vicinity for several weeks. Fred Barker next made his appearance in police circles in Tulsa, Ok. In August, 1932, J. Earl Smith, a lawyer at Tulsa, was found shot to death near a golf course outside the city. Smith had been retained to defend Harry Campbell in a bond robbery case. He was called from his home one night. The next day his bullet-pierced body was found. A few days later Barker

# U.S. Agents Kill 'Ma' Barker And Son Fred in Gunfight

Evening Bulletin 1-16-35  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## Crime Army Decimated

(By Associated Press)

The death at Oklawaha, Fla., of Fred Barker, sought for the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping, increased to a dozen the roll of badly wanted fugitives slain in the last 18 months. A list of the dead:

July 22, 1933—Marvin "Buck" Barrow, Texas desperado, slain by possemen near Dexter, Ia.

August 12, 1933—Gangsters Sam Scola and Gus Pasone, killed in a fight with Sheriff Thomas Bash at Kansas City.

November 29, 1933—Verne C. Miller, fleeing from officers who sought him for the Kansas City massacre, killed near Detroit.

May 23, 1934—Clyde Barrow, brother of Marvin, slain with Bonnie Parker in ambush near Black Lake, La.

June 7, 1934—Tommy Carroll, killed at Waterloo, Ia.

July 22, 1934—John Dillinger, shot down by Federal agents outside a Chicago theatre.

August 23, 1934—Homer Van Meter, Dillinger aid, lost in a gunfight with officers in a St. Paul alley.

October 22, 1934—Charles A. "Pretty Boy" Floyd, killed by officers on a farm near East Liverpool, O.

November 28, 1934—George "Baby Face" Nelson, fatally wounded by Federal agents at Barrington, Ill.

January 16, 1935—Fred Barker, killed with "Ma" Barker, his mother, at Oklawaha, Fla.

Two Sought in Kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer Battle Federal Men Six Hours With Machine Guns in Florida Mansion

14 WOUNDS ARE FOUND IN BODY OF OUTLAW

55-Year-Old Woman Falls With Smoking Weapon in Hand—Was Gang 'Brains' in \$200,000 Extortion

VILLAGERS FLEE 1,500 SHOTS RAKING TOWN

(Copyright, 1935, by The Associated Press)

Oklawaha, Fla., Jan. 16—Fred Barker, long sought for the sensational \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, and Barker's mother, "Ma" Barker, were slain today in a withering 6-hour gun battle with Federal agents who had tracked them here to a palatial home they had rented on the shore of Lake Weir.

"Ma" Barker frequently was described as the brains of the Barker-Karpis band of gangsters, of which her son was an active leader, and was said to have directed their activities in bank robberies and other crimes throughout the Middle West. They attained their greatest notoriety in the Bremer kidnaping a year ago.

Barker was about 32 and his mother 55.

The Department of Justice had been tracking the Barkers for some time, and early today a dozen agents led by E. J. Connel, of Cincinnati, surrounded the summer residence of Carson Bradford, president of the Biscayne Bay Kennel Club at Miami, which Barker had occupied for two months under the name of T. E. Blackburn.

Connel approached and called to Barker and his mother to come out. "The answer," Connel said, "was a blast of machine-gun fire."

The agents retired and set up their own machine guns and retaliated.

The Barkers were barricaded in their place, well supplied with machine guns and ammunition. They

(Continued on Page 14, Column Six)

# U.S. AGENTS KILL 'MA' BARKER AND SON IN GUN FIGHT

(Continued from the First Page)

apparently never had any intention of being taken alive.

For hours the battle raged. The Federal men used tear gas to back up their machine-gun fire.

Shortly after 11 o'clock firing from the house ceased, and the agents went inside. A Negro cook, who had been working there, was the only one left.

He returned in a few minutes with the news: "They are all dead."

The Federal men, none of whom had been injured, then entered the house.

When "Ma" Barker fell, the agents said, she was holding a machine gun in her hand, and part of the drum of cartridges had been exhausted.

There was a rumor, without corroboration, that the mother had seen her son fall, and, sensing capture, ended her own life.

The body of Barker was sprawled on the floor, 11 machine-gun slugs in his shoulder and three in his head.

His mother had been hit only once.

Rumors spread like wildfire. First reports said at least three women and an undetermined number of men occupied the house.

At first it was announced that two men and a woman had been slain and this gave rise to the belief that one of them was Alvin Karpis, also wanted for the kidnaping of Bremer. Later it was established that only Barker and his mother had occupied the house.

Neighbors Flee Amid Bullets

The battle was vividly described by Mrs. A. F. Westberry, who lives across the street from the battle scene. She and her daughter escaped by tumbling out the back window and running through a fusillade of bullets to the home of a neighbor, despite commands of the agents for them to halt.

"It was like war," she said. Her home was directly in the line of fire from a machine gun in the barricaded house across the way. Many bullets tore into her home, and she and her daughter remained for a while in the bathroom, nearest the center of the building.

Mrs. Westberry told of watching the flame spurts from the machine guns splitting the early morning darkness until several spattered on the door facing over her head.

After she and her daughter returned home, Mrs. Westberry said, she noticed three bullet holes in the head of her bed—shots which probably would have killed her had she not been awakened by the shooting.

Other neighbors, warned by the Federal operatives, availed themselves of the opportunity of getting away from their homes before the battle started. There still were about 200 cars parked around the lake and on streets of the village, however, and most of the residents witnessed the fight for hours from safe vantage points.

The shooting would blaze away for 15 minutes—then there would be a lull and again an outbreak of firing from both sides. Most of the shooting from the beleaguered house came from upstairs, witnesses said.

Spectators Lie Flat on Ground

The pretty white home was thoroughly pock-marked by bullets from the agents' guns.

Many of the spectators lay flat on the ground in order to keep close enough to witness the fight. Many went without their breakfasts and had late lunches.

Bremer was kidnaped on January 17, 1934. Taken from St. Paul, he was released on February 7 near Rochester, Minn., after payment of \$200,000 ransom.

The agents said they had fired 1,500 rounds of ammunition into the Bradford house.

Neighbors said they knew little of the "Blackburns" as the Barkers were known here, except that they had a great deal of company, mostly late at night.

Only Sunday a couple, known to neighbors as "Mr. and Mrs. Summers," left for the North, where they were understood to live. The Summers had been visitors at the house for several weeks.

Although the gang was named principally as the abductors of Bremer, Justice officials let it be known that inquiry would be made to determine whether the gang had been responsible for the kidnaping of William Hamm, also of St. Paul. Ransom of \$100,000 was paid for Hamm's release.

Oklawaha is a small citrus village on the main north-south highway through Florida and is approxi-



"Ma" Barker  
Fred Barker

Felled by bullets from guns of Federal agents in a pitched battle at Oklawaha, Fla., today. They had been sought as members of a gang which kidnaped Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, and collected \$200,000 ransom.

Adams said, and the couple left the hotel, saying they wanted to look over the house again. Shortly afterward, Adams said, they rented the house.

Adams said the woman appeared to be "a nice old lady" and that he had sent flowers up to her room. He seldom saw the man while he was here, Adams said.

Edward G. Bremer was kidnaped while driving along a St. Paul street in his automobile after taking his eight-year-old daughter, Betty, to school.

Two gangsters stopped his car, slugged him and carried him off.

There were ten or twelve members of the gang that held him prisoner, Bremer said. He based the estimate on the sound of their voices as they held him captive 22 days. He got no view of any of them, he said, for he was kept captive in a dark room from the time he was kidnaped, January 17, until three men took him in an automobile and pushed him, blindfolded, from the car in Rochester, Minn.

During his imprisonment, he said, they threatened to kill him if he disobeyed their commands; and guards, working in relays of two, were with him constantly.

Adolph Bremer, father of the kidnap victim, is a friend of President Roosevelt.

Walter Magee, the intermediary who delivered the ransom money—in \$5 and \$10 bills—received the first ransom note, demanding \$200,000 and warning against "bargaining with us." It was left on his office doorstep a few hours after Bremer was seized.

Magee, after long negotiations, went to a pre-arranged place in St. Paul, looked in a strange automobile parked at the curb at a specified place, and read a note secreted in a pocket of the car. In accordance with instructions, he replaced the note, climbed in the car with the money, and drove south.

At Faribault, Minn., he took a cross road, slowed to 15 miles an hour, and drove on in the lonely night. Then the signal—four flashes of an automobile's headlights.

Magee stopped, placed the money on the ground, re-entered the car, and drove away. Bremer was soon released.

# KIDNAP GANG SLAIN AND MOTHER SLAIN

Killed in Machine Gun Battle at Florida Hideout.

TRAPPED BY "G-MEN"

Agents, Led By Cincinnati, Trap Barker Outfit.

(Copyright, 1935, by the Associated Press)

OKLAWAHA, Fla., January 16—(AP)—Fred Barker, long sought for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, and his mother, "Ma" Barker, were shot to death today by Department of Justice agents after a withering six-hour machine gun battle.

Just after the furious battle ended, the Federal agents said two men and a woman had been killed, but a later check disclosed that only the Barkers were slain. Apparently, they were the only occupants of the house.

## CINCINNATI MAN LEADER

Expecting they would encounter a battle before their quarry surrendered, the agents had warned other residents of the little summer colony and local authorities of what they might expect.

The Barkers were barricaded in their place, well supplied with machine guns and ammunition. They apparently never had any intention of being taken alive.

This morning, the agents, led by E. J. Connelly of Cincinnati, surrounded the house. Connelly said he approached and called to Barker and his mother to come out.

"The answer," he added, "was a blast of machine gun fire."

The battle was on for hours, except for occasional lulls, it raged with tear-gas bombs adding to the din caused by the battling machine guns.

The gangsters barricaded themselves in a fine summer home on the bank of Lake Weir, they had rented two months ago.

About 8:45 o'clock this morning the agents, fifteen of them, surrounded the place and ordered the occupants to surrender.

There was a blaze of fire from a machine gun in answer. The agents retired and set up their own machine guns and retaliated. A blinding battle ensued and continued, except for occasional lulls, until 11 o'clock. The agents resorted to tear gas in an effort to smoke out their quarry.

A Negro cook employed in the house, rented under the name of T. C. Blackburn, was sent inside by the agents.

## THEY ARE ALL DEAD

In a moment he returned with the cryptic news:

"They are all dead."

None of the Justice agents engaged in the battle was injured.

Immediately a coroner's inquest was called and the agents kept out all except eye-witnesses.

The dead woman was about 60 years old and the man between 30 and 35.

Mrs. H. E. Westberry, who has a summer cottage across the street from that occupied by the gangsters, told a graphic story of narrowly escaping death in the exchange of blazing machine guns.

Her home was directly in the line of fire from where the bandits had set up a machine gun. A number of bullets tore through her home and she was forced to seclude herself in the bathroom to escape being shot down.

(Continued on Page 19)

## Gangsters Slain by Federal Agents

(Continued from Page 1)

As the battle waxed more furious decided to make a break for it. She dashed out of the back and heard what she believed to be a command from a Department of Justice agent to halt. She went.

Several shots fanned her head, she feared, as she kept putting distance between herself and the agents.

The agents said they had fired 30 rounds of ammunition into the house, which was riddled.

The place had been rented to a man who gave his name as T. C. Blackburn, by the owner, Carson Clifford, president of the Biscayne Kennel Club of Miami. It had been occupied about two months.

## HAD LOTS OF COMPANY

Neighbors said they knew little of "Blackburns" except that they had a great deal of company, mostly at night.

Only Sunday a couple, known to neighbors as "Mr. and Mrs. Summers," left for the North, where they were understood to live. The Summers had been visitors at the house several weeks.

This ordinarily quiet little resort place, almost on the edge of the state National Forest, experienced the greatest excitement. More than 10 cars were parked about the beautiful lake, a number of summer residents keeping to their cottages during the winter.

As the battle blazed many fled to safe distances. The sound of machine gun, shotgun and tear gas in fire echoed through the trees. News of the ambushade traveled rapidly and several hundred persons, more curious than cautious, flocked to the village. Newspapermen and cameramen from the surrounding cities sped to the scene to tell the story to the outside world.

Oklawaha is an isolated spot with only one telephone, and soon a line was formed to that by those anxious to get word out.

## USED TEAR GAS

After a blazing battle with machine guns the agents resorted to tear gas. Two men immediately made a break from the barricaded house and were promptly mowed down by the withering fire of the Federal men.

It was not immediately stated how many had surrendered.

The agents suffered no known casualties.

For nearly six hours the battle raged.

The beautiful summer home, belonging to Carson Bradford, president of the Biscayne Kennel Club at Miami, who had rented it two months ago to a man who gave his name as T. C. Blackburn, was shot full of holes.

To queries, an agent replied the mobsters were members of the "Blackburn gang" sought in connection with the Bremer kidnaping.

## ACCOUNT OF BATTLE SENT TO WASHINGTON

(Copyright, 1935, by the Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, January 16—(AP)—

The two killed in a machine-gun battle with Federal agents today at Oklawaha, Fla., were identified by the Department of Justice as Fred Barker and his mother, "Ma" Barker, both long sought for the abduction of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

When "Ma" Barker fell, the department said, she was holding a machine gun in her hand and part of the drum of cartridges had been exhausted.

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After the announcement the department said Fred Barker, killed in the battle, was a brother of Arthur Barker. It was understood Arthur had been a more prominent figure in the activities of the group than had Fred.

The attack on the Florida headquarters of the gang was made after weeks of search throughout the State.

The third member of the gang killed by Federal agents may be Alvin Karpis, long sought as one of the Bremer kidnaping gang.

✓ BARKER-KARPIS GANG

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Edwards  | ..... |
| Mr. Egan     | ..... |
| Mr. Harbo    | ..... |
| Mr. Keith    | ..... |
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| Mr. Quinn    | ..... |
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7-576-A

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January 16, 1935—Fred Barker, fled with "Ma" Barker, his mother, Oklawaha, Fla.

## 55-Year-Old Woman Flee With Smoking Weapon In Hand—Was Gang 'Brains' in \$200,000 Extortion

### VILLAGERS FLEE 1,500 SHOTS RAKING TOWN

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Machine Guns and Tea Gas

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(Continued on Page 14, Column 2)

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Only Sunday a couple, known to neighbors as "Mr. and Mrs. Summers," left for the North, where they were understood to live. The Summers had been visitors at the house for several weeks.

Although the gang was named principally as the abductors of Bremer, Justice officials let it be known that inquiries would be made to determine whether the gang had been responsible for the kidnaping of William Hamm, also of St. Paul. Ransom of \$100,000 was paid for Hamm's release.

Oklawaha is a small citrus village on the main north-south highway through Florida and is approximately 100 miles southwest of Jacksonville.

There are only a few scattered houses and business stores, and winter visitors to Florida often pass through the town without knowing it is there.

The town is situated in the southern part of Marion county, which is near the center of the State.

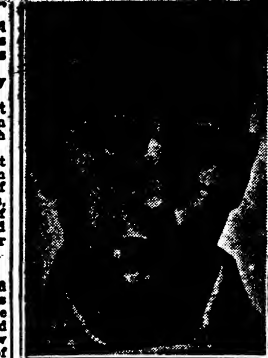
Miami, Jan. 16.—(AP)—The winter home of Carson Bradford on Lake Weir was rented two months ago by a man who gave his name as T. C. Blackburn, Joe Adams, associate of Bradford's here, said today.

Adams is general manager of the Biscayne Kennel Club, and is also manager of El Comodoro Hotel here.

Bradford said he had never seen the tenants of the house, an confirmed the statement that the rental transaction was made about two months ago by Adams.

Adams said a man and a woman registered at El Comodoro Hotel and said they were interested in renting Bradford's home. Adams said the man told him the woman was his mother.

Rental prices were talked over,



"Ma" Barker  
Fred Barker

Felled by bullets from guns of Federal agents in a pitched battle at Oklawaha, Fla., today. They had been sought as members of a gang which kidnaped Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, and collected \$200,000 ransom.

Adams said, and the couple left the hotel, saying they wanted to look over the house again. Shortly afterward, Adams said, they rented the house.

Adams said the woman appeared to be "a nice old lady" and that he had sent flowers up to her room. He seldom saw the man while he was here, Adams said.

Edward G. Bremer was kidnaped while driving along a St. Paul street in his automobile after taking his eight-year-old daughter, Betty, to school.

Two gangsters stopped his car, slugged him and carried him off.

There were ten or twelve members of the gang that held him prisoner, Bremer said. He based the estimate on the sound of their voices as they held him captive 22 days. He got no view of any of them, he said, for he was kept captive in a dark room from the time he was kidnaped, January 17, until three men took him in an automobile and pushed him, blindfolded, from the car in Rochester, Minn.

During his imprisonment, he said, they threatened to kill him if he disobeyed their commands; and guards, working in relays of two, were with him constantly.

Adolph Bremer, father of the kidnap victim, is a friend of President Roosevelt.

Walter Magee, the intermediary who delivered the ransom money—in \$5 and \$10 bills—received the first ransom note, demanding \$200,000 and warning against "bargaining with us." It was left on his office doorstep a few hours after Bremer was seized.

Magee, after long negotiations, went to a pre-arranged place in St. Paul, looked in a strange automobile parked at the curb at a specified place, and read a note secreted in a pocket of the car. In accordance with instructions, he replaced the note, climbed in the car with the money, and drove south. At Faribault, Minn., he took a cross road, slowed to 15 miles an hour, and drove on in the lonely night. Then the signal—four flashes of an automobile's headlights.

Magee stopped, placed the money on the ground, re-entered the car, and drove away. Bremer was soon released.

7-576-R

# CHICAGO

# BANDITS

# FIGHT

# U.S. AGENTS

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Mr. Nathan .....   |
| Mr. Tolson .....   |
| Mr. Clegg .....    |
| Mr. Baughman ..    |
| Chief Clerk .....  |
| Mr. Coffey .....   |
| Mr. Edwards .....  |
| Mr. Egan .....     |
| Mr. Harbo .....    |
| Mr. Keith .....    |
| Mr. Lester .....   |
| Mr. Quinn .....    |
| Mr. Schilder ..... |
| Mr. Tamm .....     |
| Mr. Tracy .....    |
| Miss Gandy .....   |

*Chicago Daily Times*

JAN 16 1935

# EXTRA

## BATTLE RAGES FOR HOURS IN FLORIDA TOWN

Ocklawaha, Fla., Jan. 16 (AP).—A group of about 15 federal agents and an undetermined number of bandits, reported to be Chicago gangsters, were engaging in a machine gun battle here today.

The firing has been continuing since about 7 o'clock when the gangsters barricaded themselves in a deserted house on the outskirts of the village and refused demands that they surrender.

*Chicago Daily Times*

JAN 16 1935

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

**KILL 2 BREMER**

**KIDNAPERS**

**IN FLORIDA**

*Chicago Daily News*  
JAN 16 1935

# U.S. Men Trap Gang Leaders

Fred and 'Ma' Barker Die  
in Six-Hour Machine-  
Gun Fight.

BARRICADED IN HOUSE

(Copyright, 1935, by The Associated Press.)  
Oklawaha, Fla., Jan. 16.—Fred Barker, long sought for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, and his mother, "Ma" Barker, were shot to death today by department of justice agents after a six-hour machine-gun battle.

Just after the furious battle ended, the federal agents said two men and a woman had been killed, but a later check disclosed that only the Barkers were slain. Apparently they were the only occupants of the house.

The beautiful summer home, belonging to Carson Bradford, president of the Biscayne Kennel Club at Miami, who had rented it two months ago to a man who gave his name as T. C. Blackburn, was shot full of holes.

To queries, an agent replied the mobsters were "members of the Blackburn gang" sought in connection with the Bremer kidnaping.

Met by Hall of Bullets.

The gangsters barricaded themselves in the home on the bank of Lake Weir. About 8:45 o'clock this morning the agents, fifteen of them, surrounded the place and ordered the occupants to surrender.

There was a blaze of fire from a machine gun in answer. The agents retired and set up their own machine guns and retaliated. A fierce battle ensued and continued, except for occasional lulls, until 11 o'clock when the agents smoked out their quarry with the tear gas.

A Negro cook employed in the house was sent inside by the agents. In a moment he returned with the cryptic news:

"They are all dead."

None of the justice agents engaged in the battle was injured.

GANGSTER SLAIN



OKLAWAHA, FLA.—

Fred Barker, fugitive murderer, and his mother were slain in a gun battle with government agents here today. Barker was sought in connection with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

(The Associated Press.)

Identified in Kidnaping.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16.—(AP)—The department of justice today identified Fred Barker, and his mother, who were killed in a Florida gun battle, as wanted for the abduction of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, a year ago tomorrow.

When "Ma" Barker fell, the department said, she was holding a machine gun in her hand and part of the drum of cartridges had been exhausted.

Bremer was kidnaped on Jan. 17, 1934. Taken from St. Paul, he was released on Feb. 7 near Rochester, Minn., after the payment of \$200,000 ransom.

At that time the department of justice named Arthur ("Doc") Barker, a brother of the man slain today, and Alvin Karpis as those responsible for the kidnaping. The

Barker-Karpis gang has been described as the last of the free-running mobs to be at large in the United States.

Obliterate Two Gangs.

Department of justice guns have practically obliterated the Dillinger and "Pretty Boy" Floyd gangs.

"Ma" Barker had been mentioned as the brains of the group and was said to have directed their activities in a number of bank robberies throughout the middle west.

The Barkers' home was in Oklawaha.

Machine guns, sawed-off shot-guns, revolvers and tear-gas bombs all were brought into play.

Although named principally as the abductors of Bremer, justice officials let it be known that inquiries would be made to determine whether the gang had been responsible for the kidnaping of William Hamm, also of St. Paul. Ransom of \$100,000 was paid for Hamm's release.

Members of the notorious Touhy gang of Chicago were arrested, tried and acquitted of this kidnaping.

The announcement regarding today's battle was made after an hour's conference between Attorney-General Cummings, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the division of investigation, Assistant Attorney William Stanley and other officers of the department.

The attack on the Florida headquarters of the gang was made after weeks of search throughout the state. Whether any other members of the gang were in the locality was under investigation.

*Chicago Daily News*  
JAN 16 1935

Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Baughman..  
 Chief Clerk.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Edwards.....  
 Mr. Egan.....  
 Mr. Harbo.....  
 Mr. Keith.....  
 Mr. Lester.....  
 Mr. Quinn.....  
 Mr. Schilder.....  
 Mr. Tamm.....  
 Mr. Tracy.....  
 Miss Gandy.....

## Bremer Seized in St. Paul Year Ago

Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, whose kidnapers are reported in a gun battle with federal agents at Oklawaha, Fla., was kidnaped just one day less than a year ago—Jan. 7, 1935—as he was returning from taking his 8-year-old daughter to school. His car was forced to the curb and his abductors sped away to a hide-out where he was kept captive twenty-two days, being released on February 8 on the payment of \$200,000 ransom.

The case remains the only big ransom kidnaping unsolved by federal agents, who have sent criminals to prison in the Boettcher case in Denver, the Urschel case in Oklahoma City, the John Factor case in Chicago and the Hamm kidnapping in St. Paul.

*F.D.*

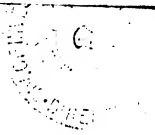
*Chicago American*

7-516-A

JAN 16 1935

From  
The Buffalo Evening News, dated  
Buffalo, New York  
January 16th, 1935

# MOTHER AND SON BETWEEN GANG



JUN 10 1958

# DIE IN BATTLE BANDITERS, U. S. MEN

## GANGSTER, MOTHER DIE

(Continued from Page 1.)

the Midwest's most desperate outlaws—dead on the floor.

### Woman Held Gun.

Sprawled nearby was his mother, "Ma" Barker, who was almost as notorious as her son. Her limp fingers still clutched the warm barrel of a machine gun.

The agents said she was dead when they found her. But she obviously had aided in the firing.

None of the federal agents who surrounded the house was killed or injured.

Bremer was kidnaped on Jan. 17, 1934. Taken from St. Paul, he was released on Feb. 7 near Rochester, Minn., after the payment of \$200,000 ransom.

At that time the Department of Justice named Arthur (Doc) Barker, brother of Fred Barker, and Alvin Karpis as those responsible for the kidnaping. The Barker-Karpis gang has been described as the last of the free-running mobs to be at large in the United States.

Department of Justice guns have practically obliterated the Dillinger and "Pretty Boy" Floyd gangs.

### Woman Brains of Gang.

"Ma" Barker has been mentioned as the brains of the group and was said to have directed their activities in a number of bank robberies throughout the middle-west. She was believed to be about 65 years old.

The Barker's home is in Oklahoma.

Machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, revolvers and tear gas bombs all were brought into play.

Although named principally as the abductors of Bremer, Justice officials let it be known that inquiries would be made to determine whether the gang had been responsible for the kidnaping of William Hamm, also of St. Paul. Ransom of \$100,000 was paid for Hamm's release.

Barker rented the house in November under the name of J. C. Blackburn from Carson Bradford, president of the Hialeah Kennel club at Miami. It is a large two-story white frame house near a lake at this resort village.

"Karpis Believed Near."

been taken. Suspicion was aroused when a stranger was seen tinkering with an automobile in the alley today.

The village posse surrounded the bank, wounded and captured the suspect.

Inside they found three bandits waiting for the time lock to open. The posse charged. The bandits fled from the rear door. Finding their car surrounded they rushed to a garage, where they stole an automobile and kidnaped George Yusco, a repairman, and Nash.

As they fled they stopped long enough to engage the posse in another gun duel and seize their wounded comrade. In the duel, Bundy was shot and killed.

### Leader Kills Himself.

The alarm was broadcast and Sheriff Axeline started from nearby Maryhall county. He headed them off, but was shot and killed. The bandits went on.

Peace officers throughout the central part of the state were joined by citizen vigilantes and closed from all sides, trapping the bandits with Nash at the farm of Jake Joeger, half-mile from McNab, Ill. Yusco had been released earlier.

Two of the bandits, including the one seriously wounded, entered the Joeger house. The other two, one said to be the leader, ran back of the house and into a cornfield.

Surrounded, the leader, carrying a sub-machine gun, committed suicide before police could reach him. His companion surrendered.

## MA BARKER DIES WITH 2 OUTLAWS IN POLICE TRAP

Son Fred and Man Believed to Be Alvin Karpis, Both Wanted for Bremer Kidnaping, Victims in Florida—Three Are Killed in Illinois.

### BULLETIN

Six persons died in gun battles fought today between officials and criminals in two widely separated sectors.

Federal agents laid siege to a gang barricaded in a Summer home at Oklawaha, Fla., and shot to death two men and a woman before the battle ended in the capitulation of the fugitives.

After a running gun battle, deputies captured three bandits who had attempted to rob a Lenore, Ill., bank. Another member of the bandit gang committed suicide. Before the fugitives were rounded up near LaSalle, Ill., they killed two men, a sheriff and a bank cashier, and wounded two other persons.

Copyright, 1935, by the Associated Press.

OKLAWAHA, Fla., Jan. 16.—Fred Barker, his mother, "Ma" Barker, and a man believed to be Alvin Karpis, long sought in connection with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, were shot and killed by De-

7-576-A

"Blackburn" was accompanied by a woman. They had spent their time here hunting and fishing, and became known as "good spenders."

Several visitors came to the house from time to time. Among them was believed to have been Karpis, widely-hunted Midwest desperado.

A large party of visitors came to the house several days ago. Two or three left Sunday night. Officers were not sure just how many were in the house when they raided it today.

The Department of Justice men had shown photographs of the men they were hunting to local residents who identified them as occupants of the raided house.

They are regarded by federal agents as the most dangerous group of criminals at large. Government operatives believed Arthur Barker and Karpis might be in the vicinity of the battle.

### 3 KILLED, 3 WOUNDED IN ILLINOIS BANDIT WAR

LENORE, Ill., Jan. 16 (U.P.).—Bank bandits and vigilantes fought a series of gun battles today in Central Illinois, where three men were killed and three were wounded. Three of the gang of four bandits were captured. No money was obtained.

The victims are:

J. C. BUNDY, cashier of the bank, shot and killed.

GENE AXELINE, sheriff of Marshall county, killed.

Unidentified bandit who shot and killed himself with a machine gun to evade capture.

CHARLES SEIPP, LaSalle county supervisor, seriously wounded.

NORMAN NASH, 13, kidnaped by the bandits and shot through the hand before released.

One member of the bandit gang wounded by the posse.

Posse Charges Bandits.

An attempt had been made a month ago to hold up the state bank here and elaborate precautions had

Department of Justice agents here today in a withering six-hour machine gun battle.

Barker, wanted for the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping in Minnesota, and his mother, who handled a machine gun as the bandit stood off 12 federal men and county officers all morning, were found dead in the house when the attackers entered.

The fighting began at 7 o'clock this morning when the federal agents—recently tipped that Barker was in this area—were fired on while walking near the house.

Machine Guns Used.

The squad of Department of Justice agents was headed by E. J. Connelly, and aided by a squad of sheriff's officers from Ocala.

"We are Department of Justice men, come on out," challenged one of the officers when they approached the house.

Shooting then started from the house. Machine guns were used on both sides. Several hundred shots were exchanged within a space of 15 minutes.

The shooting sometimes died down only to flare up intermittently. After an hour's quiet, shortly after noon, the federal agents began closing in on the house and filled it with tear gas.

With their own guns still in readiness, they advanced on the house.

Inside, they found Barker—one of (Gangster, continued on Page 8, Column 5.)

RECEIVED



JAN 16 1935

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson     |  |
| Mr. Clegg      |  |
| Mr. Glavin     |  |
| Mr. Ladd       |  |
| Mr. Nichols    |  |
| Mr. Rosen      |  |
| Mr. Tracy      |  |
| Mr. Carson     |  |
| Mr. Coffey     |  |
| Mr. Hendon     |  |
| Mr. Jones      |  |
| Mr. Quinn      |  |
| Mr. Nease      |  |
| Mr. Gurnea     |  |
| Mr. Harbo      |  |
| Mr. Mohr       |  |
| Mr. Pennington |  |
| Mr. Nease      |  |
| Mr. Gurnea     |  |
| Mr. Harbo      |  |
| Mr. Mohr       |  |
| Mr. Pennington |  |

WCNS71

FIFTEEN FEDERAL AGENTS TODAY SHOT AND KILLED FRED BARKER, NOTORIOUS GANGSTER, AND HIS ELDERLY MACHINE-GUNNING MOTHER DURING A FIVE HOUR GUN BATTLE AT OKLAWAHA, FLA., THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

1/16 ON11CP.



7-526-A

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

**OCALA, FLA.--FEDERAL AGENTS ENGAGED IN A MACHINE GUN BATTLE TODAY WITH A GROUP OF OUTLAWS BELIEVED TO BE MIDWEST GANGSTERS, REPORTS SAID SOME MEMBERS OF THE GANG WERE HUNTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE KIDNAPING OF EDWARD G. BREMER, ST. PAUL BANKER, ANOTHER WAS SOUGHT FOR THE SLAYING OF A MISSOURI SHERIFF.**

**A DOZEN OR MORE OFFICERS, INCLUDING FEDERAL AGENTS AND SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES FROM OCALA, SURROUNDED THE GANG IN A LARGE FRAME HOUSE NEAR THE OKLAHAWA INN, 19 MILES FROM HERE.**

**THE SHOOTING STARTED ABOUT 7 A.M., AND WAS STILL GOING ON THREE HOURS LATER.**

**BOTH THE GANG INSIDE THE HOUSE AND THE OFFICERS OUTSIDE WERE USING MACHINE GUNS.**

1/16--R1131A

*Read to Mr. Quinn.*

*R 7-576-A*

*[Handwritten signature/initials]*